

# DAILY REPORT

## Asia & Pacific

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**SALES TAX PLAN STIMULATES OPPOSITION PARTIES****Doi on JSP Opposition****OW161101 Tokyo KYODO in English 1051 GMT 16 Mar 87**

[Text] Fukuoka, March 16 KYODO -- Top opposition party leader Takako Doi, meeting with reporters in Fukuoka Monday, said that Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone was cornered and had only two choices -- to drop a controversial 5 percent sales tax plan or to dissolve the Diet. Doi, who heads the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), said she plans to propose a nonconfidence vote in the Diet, following crucial local elections, beginning April 12, to force Nakasone to make a decision. She also ruled out any compromise between a united opposition front and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on the sales tax, a key factor in the tax reform bill already approved by the cabinet and due to pass the Diet in the current session.

Four opposition parties, including the Komeito, have stalled the Diet budget committee deliberations since February to protest the sales tax, which is slated to go into effect January 1988 along with gradual income and corporate tax cuts. As a result of the budget committee deadlock, the LDP-controlled government will be required to draw up a provisional 50-day budget until a fiscal 1987 budget is approved.

Commenting on the provisional budget, Doi said the entire responsibility lies with the LDP and Nakasone's cabinet. She pointed out that the opposition would not accept a budget aimed at introducing sales taxes, eliminating interest-free small savings accounts (maruyu) and hiking annual defense expenditures above the decade-old ceiling of 1-percent of gross national product.

On the sales tax issue, opposition members have charged that Nakasone is violating an election pledge he made prior to the July 1986 general election, promising not to introduce wide-scale indirect taxes. Doi commented that the upcoming local elections will provide voters with the opportunity to voice their opinion concerning Nakasone.

Following a major JSP victory in a March 8 election in the conservative stronghold of Iwate, a number of LDP candidates in the local election are joining the antisales tax bandwagon.

Says Doi, "They're just following the style of the prime minister (who makes election promises he does not intend to keep.)"

**Yano on Komeito Opposition****OW171105 Tokyo KYODO in English 0943 GMT 17 Mar 87****[By Hiroaki Furuno]**

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO -- Junya Yano, chairman of the No. 2 opposition Komeito, said Tuesday that the government-proposed sales tax issue will lead to an intra-party power struggle within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) after nationwide gubernatorial election on April 12. Yano made the comment at a meet-the-press luncheon held at the Japan press center here.

Renewing his pledge to oppose the controversial tax plan, he said that moves within the LDP and its supporters to protest the tax legislation have intensified since the party failed to retain a seat in the March 8 House of Councillors by-election in Iwate Prefecture.



Yano pointed to a new move among the LDP's three "new leaders" vying for the prime ministership -- Party Secretary General Noboru Takeshita, Executive Council Chairman Shintaro Abe and Finance Minister Kiichi Miyasawa -- calling on Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to step down immediately in return for the Diet passage of the budget for fiscal 1987. Diet deliberations on the budget have stalled intermittently since the reopening of the ordinary Diet session on January 26 with the oppositions boycotting Diet debate over the budget bill.

According to Yano, Takeshita and Abe share the view that Nakasone should step down as prime minister and party president at the time of the Diet passage of the sales tax package. The legislation, part of a major tax reform, was originally expected to clear the Diet before Nakasone's tenure as party president ends in October.

Commenting on Komeito's strategy to block the sales tax, Yano hinted at the resignation en masse of all Diet members of opposition parties -- the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) -- which have joined forces in opposition against the tax plan.

Yano said, "The strategy is aimed at a possible general election taking advantage of a feud within the LDP." He also said that the Diet debate on the sales tax will resume following the gubernatorial elections but that debate on the compilation of a stopgap budget and other related bills will continue during the impasse.

#### 18 Mar Opposition Meeting

OW181059 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO -- Leaders of opposition parties said Wednesday that they will fight until the ruling Liberal Democratic Party withdraws a proposed value-added type sales tax. The remarks were made at a gathering here which was sponsored by bookstores nationwide who oppose the controversial sales tax.

Tsuruo Yamaguchi, secretary general of the No. 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party, told the gathering that though Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru hinted Monday at a sales tax revision, the party will not make any concessions to the LDP. Yamaguchi also said Kanemaru's remarks were an LDP plot so the LDP could profit in the upcoming unified local elections.

No. 2 opposition Komeito chairman Junya Yano said although the LDP has an overwhelming 304 seats in the lower house, its number is not a force due to the oppositions unity. Yano added that his party will not compromise with the LDP over the proposed sales tax or a revised version.

Democratic Socialist Party Vice Chairman Eiichi Nagasue also said his party will not compromise with the LDP no matter what Kanemaru has said. Nagasue vowed to fight until the sales tax, expected to be 5 percent on goods and services, is crushed.

Tetsuzo Fuwa, chairman of the Japan Communist Party, said his party will refuse any revised version of the sales tax.

Meanwhile, leaders of 13 trade groups, including the Japan Foreign Trade Council, Inc., told the LDP Wednesday that it is improper for exports to be tax-exempt while imposing them on imports as Japan is being urged to import more goods and to expand its domestic demands.

JAPAN'S 1986 ECONOMIC GROWTH WORST IN 12 YEARS

OW171057 Tokyo KYODO in English 10024 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO -- The Japanese economy rose a lackluster 0.8 percent allowing for inflation in the final three months of 1986 from the previous quarter, closing the year with the slowest rate of expansion in a dozen years, the government reported Tuesday.

The fourth-quarter growth, which translated into an annual rate of 3.2 percent, brought last year's growth to 2.5 percent, the worst figure since the economy shrank 1.4 percent in 1974 in the aftermath of the first oil crisis, the Economic Planning Agency report said.

In order to achieve the government's growth projection of 3.0 percent for fiscal 1986, ending March 31, the economy must expand another 2.6 percent in the current January-March quarter, which is equivalent to a whopping annual rate of 10.8 percent, agency officials said. This in effect has dashed hopes for attaining the growth target, private economists said.

The officials blamed the poor 1986 performance on a dramatic plunge in consumer spending, which accounted for 57 percent of the nation's gross national product (GNP).

Personal consumption expenditure fell 0.7 percent in the last quarter of 1986 for the first decline in 12 years. It rose 1.3 percent in the third quarter. But on a year-on-year basis, fourth-quarter consumer spending represented a 2.2 percent gain, one official said. "The plummet in consumer spending was surprising," he said. "But it will only be temporary."

Private-sector demand contributed half a percentage point to the 0.8 percent fourth-quarter growth. External demand accounted for 0.2 point, with net exports showing a 0.2-point decline and imports a 0.4-point rise.

EC COMMISSIONER URGES JAPAN TO OPEN MARKETS

OW180401 Tokyo KYODO in English 0346 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Brussels, March 17 KYODO -- European Community (EC) commissioner Willy de Clercq Tuesday expressed concern over Japan's expanded trade imbalance with EC nations and urged Japan to make greater efforts to open up its markets.

De Clercq said the he will demand International Trade and Industry Minister Hajime Tamura to take effective measures to improve the bilateral trade imbalance when he visits Tokyo to attend quadrilateral trade talks among Japan, the United States, the EC and Canada, slated for the end of April.

De Clercq, who is in charge of external relations and trade policies, told Japanese reporters that Japan should change its economic structure and boost its imports in response to worldwide criticism. He also warned that shifting Japanese exports from the United States to EC nations has become a real problem as Japan has continued to encourage exports to European countries, helped by an "undervalued" yen against the European currencies.

Concerning the issue of auto exports, De Clercq said the EC commission will strictly monitor the outcome of voluntary curbs by the Japanese Government urging restraints of up to 10 percent on the growth of exports on a year-to-year basis. He said even the 10 percent growth rate signifies many cars, judging from the fact that Japanese-made autos have already occupied more than a 10 percent share of the total EC market.

De Clercq urged Japan to correct "discriminating" nontariff barriers on imported autos including the standard and certification systems. He also insisted that EC's move toward tight regulations calling for the imposition of antidumping duties on auto parts is only aimed at closing "loopholes," and that the regulations would apply to unpardonable cases.

Based on a statement issued by EC foreign ministers Monday, De Clercq said the EC intends to gain greater access for European products, such as dairy goods, into Japanese markets by negotiations on a market-oriented, sector selective basis.

#### ARGENTINA RELEASES JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL

OW180625 Tokyo KYODO in English 0617 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO -- Argentina released a Japanese fishing vessel and its 13 crewmen last week after imposing a 300,000 dollar fine on the ship's operators for alleged fishing violations within Argentine territorial waters, the Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) said Wednesday.

The 332-ton No 87 Shoichi Maru and its crew were seized February 12 while operating in waters about 360 kilometers off the central part of Argentina, the MSA said. According to the MSA, the ship left Aomori Prefecture last December.

Reports received by MSA officials in Tokyo said Argentine authorities released the ship and its crew from custody after imposing the fine and confiscating the squid catch. The ship left Argentine port of Bahia Blanca last Wednesday evening, the officials said.

#### MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON DPRK, ROK TALKS

OW171002 Tokyo KYODO in English 0951 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO -- A senior Foreign Ministry official showed optimism Tuesday toward the possibility of a resumption of dialogue between North and South Korea.

Commenting on the suspension of dialogue since January last year, blamed by North Korea on South Korea's joint military exercises with the United States, the official said, "The two Koreas differ on levels, procedures and other minor matters concerning the talks, but are not so far apart on basics."

In reply to North Korea's third proposal for high-level political and military talks, South Korea counterproposed Tuesday to hold fresh bilateral Red Cross and economic as well as a prime minister-level talks.

"Opportunities for the meeting are growing," the official, who declined to be named, said.



'TEXT' OF MINISTRY DIPLOMATIC CONTACT STATEMENT

SK190517 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 19 (KCNA) -- 'The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a statement at a news briefing he gave here today for home and foreign reporters.

He said:

It could be welcomed that the United States has expressed its attitude on allowing its officials, though limited ground, to have conversations with us by easing its previous limitations to a certain extent. We are ready to respond to it with sincerity.

Follows the full text of the statement:

Some time ago the U.S. Department of State expressed its attitude that it will ease the restrictions on contacts with us and allow and encourage the U.S. diplomats to have conversations and dialogues with our diplomats within the limited ground.

On March 9, the spokesman of the U.S. Department of State described that it allows its diplomats to have sincere dialogues with the diplomats of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and that this means the modification of the U.S. guiding principle in contacting with us.

We pay attention to this step by the U.S. side, considering it as an affirmative one.

The dialogues and negotiations are the main method to solve the problems in a peaceful way and it is invariable stand of the government of our republic to peacefully settle the various complicated problems relating to the situation on the Korean peninsula through dialogues and negotiations.

With a view to relaxing the tension on the Korean peninsula and creating the favourable precondition for the peaceful solution of reunification problem of the country, the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has repeatedly asserted to hold the DPRK-U.S. talks and the tripartite talks between us, the United States and South Korea and waited patiently for the affirmative reply from the United States and South Korea.

It could be welcomed that the United States has expressed its attitude on allowing its officials, through limited ground, to have conversations with us by easing its previous limitations to a certain extent. We are ready to respond to it with sincerity.

We are ready to approach to and have conversations with the officials of the United States without imposing any restrictions on places, formalities and the levels.

It is our hope that if the two sides make such contacts and have sincere conversations with good-will and broad-mindedness, they could find out the clues to dispel each other's misunderstanding and settle the complicated and entangled Korea-U.S. relations and would lead to many-sided honest conversations on a broader way which will be conducive to detente on the Korean peninsula and peaceful reunification of Korea.



NODONG SINMUN ON U.S. WAR LINE, TWO KOREAS POLICY

SK180810 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2124 GMT 17 Mar 87

[NODONG SINMUN 18 March special article: "The U.S. Imperialists' Line of War and Policy of Two Koreas"]

[Text] The U.S. imperialists and the puppet South Korean clique are persistently maneuvering to deepen Korea's division and fabricate two Koreas. Their ideas about the simultaneous admission of the North and South into the United Nations and about having the North and South cross recognized are a central expression of the two Koreas policy.

The goals behind the theory of the simultaneous admission of the North and South into the United Nations and cross-recognition are to launch a campaign to make South Korea, a U.S. imperialist colony, appear as if it were a state and to have the permanent division of Korea legalized in the international arena by making it appear as if there were two states on the Korean peninsula.

To this end, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, while tenaciously attempting to have contacts with the socialist countries and nonaligned countries under the pretext of nordpolitik or diplomacy with the nonaligned countries, are furiously running around to use such opportunities as the Olympics for this purpose.

Through this, they are trying to shore up support for their idea about the simultaneous admission of the North and South into the United Nations or South Korea's unilateral admission into the United Nations; to create a favorable atmosphere for cross-exchanges, cross-contacts, and cross-recognition by broadening relations with the socialist countries, the nonaligned countries, and the Third World countries; and to fabricate two Koreas.

A scheme to bisect a single Korea into two Koreas and keep the Korean people divided into two indefinitely is a flagrant criminal act that shows the aggressive disposition of the U.S. imperialists and the treachery of the puppet South Korean clique.

Driven by an objective to perpetuate the division of our country and hold South Korea under their control indefinitely, the U.S. imperialists have maintained the policy of two Koreas. However, it is not just the perpetuation of Korea's division that the United States seeks to achieve behind its policy of two Koreas. Today, the policy of two Koreas has been closely interwoven with the aggressive U.S. global strategy and has become an instrument for the U.S. imperialists' line of war.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The U.S. imperialists are bent on invading the whole of Korea by using South Korea as a military and strategic support point and, going one step further, on realizing their ambition to dominate the world.

While prepping for another world war, the United States now attaches more importance to South Korea in strategic terms than at any previous time. The reactionary and wicked nature of the U.S. scheme to fabricate two Koreas lies in their ambition to indefinitely hold South Korea under their control, invade the whole of Korea by using South Korea as a military and strategic support point, and, going one step further, realize the domination of the world.

Th U.S. imperialists, who have become greatly uneasy and worried by the fact that relations among the international forces are becoming unfavorable for the imperialist and reactionary forces with the passage of time and that the United States is being driven into a serious economic crisis, are now trying to emerge from this crisis through war.

Attempting to produce a breakthrough by the use of military force whenever political and economic crisis deepens is a shopworn trick that the U.S. imperialists have employed. The U.S. policy of war has been drastically strengthened since the inauguration of the Reagan administration.

Showing an extreme degree of animosity toward the socialist countries -- the great anti-imperialist revolutionary forces and peace-defending forces of our era -- the persons currently in authority in the United States, while pledging to throw communism into the garbage heap of history, have directed the brunt of their policy of war against the socialist countries and are now accelerating their arms buildup aimed at these countries, and accelerating nuclear arms buildup and particularly preparations for a thermonuclear war.

The U.S. military budget for the next fiscal year, which amounts to \$312 billion, the development and deployment of strategic nuclear forces of all descriptions, and the pressing forward with Star Wars all show this clearly.

Basing themselves on such war preparations, the U.S. imperialists consider striking at the socialist countries, which are carrying out their socialist and communist cause in the vast areas of the Asian and European continents, in both the eastern and western directions to be the principal military and strategic policy in their global strategy.

Concerning their plan to implement such a military and strategic policy, the U.S. imperialists attach as great a significance to Asia as they do to Europe.

Believing that the Asian and Pacific region will become one of the major battlefields which will determine victory and defeat in great wars should a new world war break out again, the U.S. imperialists are beefing up aggressive forces, nuclear forces in particular, in this region, on a large scale. This is evidenced by the beefing up of U.S. nuclear bases in the Asian and Pacific region; the large-scale arming of the forces belonging to the U.S. 7th Fleet with nuclear weapons; the scheme to fabricate the tripartite military alliance among the United States, Japan, and South Korea; the acceleration of Japan's efforts to become a great military power; and successive war exercises such as the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise and U.S.-Japanese joint military exercises.

To be sure, the U.S. imperialists plan to realize their aggressive global strategy by striking at the socialist countries in two directions -- East and West -- with NATO in the West and the tripartite military alliance among the United States, Japan, and South Korea in the East assumed as military means.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The U.S. imperialists, who dream of dominating the world, attach great strategic significance to the Korean peninsula -- an area in Asia of major military importance -- while strengthening their maneuvers to invade the Asian and Pacific region.

The United States attaches enormous significance to holding South Korea under its control as a strategically and militarily important point in shaping an Eastern front designed to invade the socialist countries.

In this regard, the U.S. imperialists refer to South Korea as a vitally important area for U.S. interests and as a strategic forefront. This means that the United States considers South Korea to be an indispensable pivotal point in their antisocialist military strategy.

Why does the United States attach such great importance to South Korea in its antisocialist strategy? First of all, it is related to the strategic position of South Korea. South Korea lies adjacent to the easternmost point of the socialist countries stretched out in the vast areas between Asia and Europe, and at the same time lies in the western edge of the chain of aggressive U.S. military bases built in the areas stretching out from the U.S. mainland to Northeast Asia through the Pacific region. In other words, South Korea has become the forward base on the forefront of the U.S. front against the socialist countries, beginning with the Asian and Pacific region.

Moreover, South Korea is directly linked to the northern half of the republic, the eastern outpost of socialism. Proceeding from this, the U.S. imperialists, considering South Korea to be a strategic and military support point in the implementation of the global strategic plan to mount a strike against the socialist countries, including our republic.

Also, the United States attaches importance to South Korea by regarding it as the one and only beachhead on the continent which it has already claimed and where it is not necessary to land U.S. armed forces. After the United States was driven out of Northeast Asia, South Korea became the last U.S. colony and military base left on the Asian continent.

The United States believes that carrying out operational acts against the socialist countries depending on this beachhead is in its favor. South Korea lies across a strait adjacent to Japan, which is called an unsinkable aircraft carrier of the United States. The United States calculates that if the tripartite military alliance of the United States, Japan, and South Korea conducts a joint operation against the socialist countries, with Japan as strategic rear and South Korea as the forefront base, it would be an effective operation.

The United States views the fact that South Korea, the nuclear forward base, is far from the U.S. mainland geographically as propitious for U.S. security. The U.S. imperialists calculate that if they trigger a nuclear war against our republic and other socialist countries by using South Korea as a support point they can confine the nuclear holocaust only to others and keep it away from themselves. Herein lies the true goal behind the theory of the United States and South Korea being a security community babbled about by the U.S. imperialists.

The U.S. imperialists view South Korea as the proper place in which to light the fuse of a new world war. This is because South Korea is a U.S. colony in which the United States plays the role of practical ruler; a military annex in which the United States exercises the prerogative of supreme command; and because the puppet clique is a faithful perpetrator who executes U.S. orders obediently.

The United States expects that it can easily provoke a war by utilizing such conditions, with the puppet South Korean clique in the vanguard. The United States did exactly the same thing during the past Korean war.

Instigated by the U.S. imperialists, the South Korean puppets, while babbling about the threat of southward invasion or threat from the communists, are engaged in frantic anticommunist, anti-republic rackets, thereby proving this.



Without exception, the imperialists have always kicked up such commotions on the eve of using military force against the socialist and progressive countries. The U.S. imperialists are also aiming at provoking a new war against the socialist countries, a nuclear war in particular, by causing the situation on the Korean peninsula to be strained to the extreme. The U.S. imperialists have reduced South Korea to a breeding ground of exacerbating tension and nuclear war to implement their antisocialist strategy and calculate that they can transform the state of inching toward the brink of war into a real war at any given time.

To this end, the U.S. imperialists have already deployed in South Korea approximately 1,000 nuclear weapons of all types, have reduced South Korea to a source of nuclear war, and are about to introduce into South Korea Lance missiles, F-16 fighter-bombers, and other means to deliver nuclear weapons en masse, while scheming to ship even Pershing II and cruise missiles into South Korea.

Forming a forest in South Korea are nuclear weapons of various descriptions which are capable of striking at not only the northern half of the republic, but also at other socialist countries. If the U.S. imperialists mean to wage a war against only the northern half of the republic, why have they introduced into South Korea nuclear weapons capable of performing such varied and divergent operational functions? Why, in addition, have they deployed long-range offensive nuclear means?

It is self-evident that the U.S. imperialists have deployed nuclear weapons in South Korea to strike at our republic as well as other socialist countries. There is no doubt about it.

As demonstrated by various facts, South Korea is the easternmost forefront nuclear attack base in the U.S. antisocialist nuclear strategy. The threat of U.S. nuclear war that comes from South Korea is posed not only to the northern half of the republic, but also to all the socialist countries. In view of the goal sought by the U.S. imperialists' global strategy and its nature, their scheme to turn South Korea into a nuclear forward base and preparations for a nuclear war in South Korea pose a serious threat to all of the socialist countries and all socialist forces.

If a nuclear war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, it can easily spill over into all the socialist countries and thus, be escalated into a global thermonuclear war. Herein lies a major reason why the U.S. nuclear warmongers and bellicose adventurists, while considering South Korea to be a pivotally important point of the antisocialist nuclear strategy, are always reluctant to let it go.

Today, the U.S. policy of two Koreas is being used for this very wicked purpose. Through their policy of two Koreas, they are trying to have the perpetual division of Korea legalized in the international theater and maintain the forcible occupation of South Korea by U.S. troops. By using these as military means, they are trying to hold South Korea under control as a war base and ultimately turn South Korea into a source of a new war, a nuclear war against the socialist countries.

The U.S. policy of two Koreas is not only an instrument designed to perpetuate the division of Korea, but it also serves the military purpose of implementing the reactionary U.S. global strategy. The policy of two Koreas is a product of a line of division to be applied to Korea and, at the same time, a variant of a war line.

The fact that the U.S. imperialists are now beefing up troops of aggression and accelerating war preparations in South Korea, while being enthusiastic about promoting a plot to fabricate two Koreas, also demonstrates the close ties between their policy of war and policy of two Koreas. Herein lies the great danger of the policy of two Koreas claimed by the splittists within and without.



The brunt of the policy of two Koreas is directed not only at the Korean people, but also at the socialist countries and the world's peace-loving forces.

If the scheme to fabricate two Koreas is left to continue and South Korea is turned further into a source of U.S. imperialists' nuclear war, it will help to increase the threat of the U.S. imperialists' nuclear war against our country and other socialist countries. And if the U.S. imperialists pull the trigger of a nuclear war in South Korea, there is no question that not only the northern half of the republic, but also all of the socialist countries, will become the targets of strikes.

This will inflict great calamities on the Korean people and will force great sacrifices on the other socialist countries. Although the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys are doggedly trying to cover up the danger of war contained in the policy of two Koreas under the slogan of cross-contacts and cross-recognition and to beautify it with peace, this is nothing but a camouflage designed to hide a trip. There is no one on earth who will fail to penetrate the deceptive nature of the policy of two Koreas as a peace strategy of pursuing war.

Under no circumstances should the U.S. imperialists' policy of two Koreas be allowed to succeed. Allowing this means walking along a path to war; opposing it is indeed the road to peace. Peace in Korea, security of the socialist countries, and world peace are inseparably linked to each other. For this common cause, it is imperative for us to strengthen the struggle designed to decisively check and frustrate the policy of two Koreas by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

This struggle is a major part of a just struggle designed to frustrate the U.S. imperialists' plan to turn South Korea into a nuclear base and their maneuvers there to prepare for a new war; to promote peace in Korea and the peaceful reunification of Korea; to strengthen internationalist solidarity of the peoples of the socialist countries; to successfully smash the U.S. imperialists' antisocialist strategy; to prevent thermonuclear war; and to defend peace and security in the world.

Today peoples in the socialist countries, peoples in the nonaligned and Third World countries, and the broad peace-loving people in the world actively oppose the U.S. imperialists' line of division and war for Korea and the plot by the splittists within and without to fabricate two Koreas. They ardently demand that the forcible occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists -- the source of division and the danger of war in Korea -- be ended and that U.S. troops and nuclear weapons be withdrawn from South Korea, while extending firm solidarity with the Korean people in their struggle for peace and peaceful reunification. This is great encouragement to our people.

It is an unstoppable trend of the times to struggle against new U.S. plot for war and to have U.S. troops and nuclear withdrawn from various parts of the world and to turn all the continents, oceans, and all areas in the world into nuclear-free zones. The struggle waged against the plot to fabricate the two Koreas is an important element that constitutes this trend.

By further strengthening the future struggle designed to smash the U.S. policy of two Koreas and maneuvers to provoke a new war, the Korean people will promote peace in Korea and peaceful reunification of Korea, and will contribute to preserving the security of the socialist countries and world peace.

**FUJISAN MARU FISHERMEN TO BE TRIED FOR ESPIONAGE**

SK190439 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 19 (KCNA) -- The competent organ of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea announced that the master and chief engineer of the Japanese ship "Fujisan Maru No 18" who are under detention after being arrested while committing espionage in gross violation of the sovereignty of the DPRK, would be brought to trial.

**SOVIET AMBASSADOR PETES TREATY ANNIVERSARY**

SK190451 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 19 (KCNA) -- Soviet Ambassador to Korea Nikolay Shubnikov arranged a film show and a cocktail party at his embassy on the evening of March 17 on the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the signing of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union.

Present there on invitation were Yi Mong-ho, chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Kim Chae-yul, minister of forestries, Kim Hyong-yul, vice-minister of foreign affairs, Ho Paek-san, vice-minister of culture and art, Kim Chong-u, vice-minister of external economic affairs, Yi Pong-hui, vice-chairman of the DPRK Radio and Television Broadcasting Committee and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, and other officials concerned.

Officials of the Soviet Embassy were on hand.

The attendants first appreciated a Soviet documentary film.

Then followed the cocktail party.

Speeches were exchanged there.

A meeting and a film show were held at the Soviet Consulate General in Chongjin on the same day.

**KIM CHONG-IL RECEIVES LEADERS' BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

SK190455 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 19 (KCNA) -- Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and secretary, of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, received messages of greetings from Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Banharn Silapa-Archa, general secretary of the National Party of Thailand, and Prayun Suraniwongse, general secretary of the New Force Party of Thailand, on the occasion of his birthday.

The messages extend most heartfelt greetings with deepest respect to Comrade Kim Chong-il and sincerely wish him good health and a long life on his birthday.

They express the belief that under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il the Korean people will make greater achievements in their endeavors for socialist construction and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

VNS EXAMINES NATURE OF 'TEAM SPIRIT' EXERCISE

SK190401 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 1000 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Dialogue between Ko Il-chol and Madame Yun Chong-won from the "Focus of Topics" program]

[Text] [Ko Il-chol] How are you, Madame Yun? Today, would you please discuss how the "Team Spirit-87" war exercise is being conducted?

[Yun] Yes. "Team Spirit-87" is now becoming even more feverish. Since the advance unit of U.S. Army I Corps arrived at Kimhae Air Force Base on 22 February, aircraft, warships, and transport vessels have been rushing in to the Korean peninsula from their bases in the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, the Philippines, and Japan. The 19,000-ton-class Mercury and other U.S. naval transport vessels are continuing to hurl military equipment and troops onto this soil for deployment in the "Team Spirit" exercise. Meanwhile, busy moves have also been made by the South Korean Army. A great number of South Korean troops have already been mobilized for the "Team Spirit-87" exercise. On 14 March, the Hwarang army unit, on the pretext of displaying maneuvering and loading capabilities, mobilized helicopters and carried out an airlift exercise as a part of the "Team Spirit" exercise. Earlier, from 26 to 28 February, on the pretext of checking the defense posture in the capital area, a large-scale war exercise was staged in the Seoul area. Under the supervision of Defense Minister Yi Ki-paek, the exercise was staged with the Pangpae army unit as the main force. In addition, all military troops, police forces, and reservists in Seoul were mobilized in blocking main streets in the city and making a fuss firing blanks. Meanwhile, coinciding with the "Team Spirit-87" exercise, the frontline military training of all college students has begun.

[Ko] Indeed, it can be said that the war exercise is being staged in a lunatic manner.

[Yun] Yes. The South Korean and U.S. authorities said that "Team Spirit-87" would begin on 19 February. However, the exercise actually began much earlier than that. Prior to the beginning of the exercise, the United States landed a 1,000-member advance unit of the 3d Marine Division in Okinawa in the Pohang area for deployment and to set up military camps. "Team Spirit" has been staged 11 times on this soil in the past. However, I think, this is the first time that a great number of troops were transferred to this soil from their foreign bases prior to the beginning of the exercise.

The United States and the Chon Tu-hwan group stated that some 200,000 troops -- 40,000 U.S. troops in South Korea, U.S. forces from U.S. military bases in the U.S. mainland and the Pacific region, and the South Korean Army -- would be mobilized for the exercise this time. An aircraft carrier battle group of the U.S. 7th Fleet and a great amount of nuclear war equipment would also be reportedly mobilized. They said that the exercise would continue until May. All facts clearly show the dangerous nature of the exercise.

[Ko] Yes, you are right. Moreover, what cannot be overlooked, I think, is the U.S. scheme to drastically beef up the U.S. forces in South Korea and the South Korean Armed Forces while staging "Team Spirit-87".



[Yun] Yes, this is true. This shows how frantically the United States is spurring the new war preparations on the Korean peninsula. As already reported, several days ago, the United States said that it would continue the forward deployment of the U.S. 2d Infantry Division in the frontline area, assign another battalion of assault helicopters to enhance its firepower, and deploy a multiple rocket support system. Earlier, on 6 March, on the pretext of improving the performance of the Hawk surface-to-air missiles offered to the Chon Tu-hwan group, the United States decided to transfer electronic equipment worth \$84 million.

[Ko] Yes. Staging "Team Spirit-87" on this soil through the mobilization of a great number of troops and war means is an open challenge to and an intolerable treachery against our people and the world public opinion seeking to alleviate tension on this soil and achieve peace.

[Yun] Yes. At a time when the North has proposed holding high-level North-South political and military talks to eliminate political confrontation and military tension between the North and South, seek national conciliation and unity, and pave a way to peaceful reunification, the United States and the Chon Tu-hwan group, ignoring the proposal, are mobilizing 200,000 troops and modern war equipment to stage a war exercise against the North. This, I think, is an intolerable crime. To conceal the criminal nature of the war exercise, the U.S. ruling circles and the Chon Tu-hwan group rave about a defensive annual exercise and so forth. However, no one is deceived. Even in war exercises of NATO -- the largest military bloc in the West -- less than 100,000 troops are mobilized. This notwithstanding, the war exercise, which is staged for several months by mobilizing hundreds of thousand troops -- with which an entire war could be waged -- and even the means of nuclear war in South Korea -- which has turned into the most dangerous place and the largest nuclear armory in the world -- are described as a defensive exercise. This is indeed outrageous gibberish.

At present, because of the "Team Spirit-87" South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise staged by the United States and the Chon Tu-hwan group, a tense situation, in which a war can break out at any moment, prevails on this soil. No one knows when the exercise will turn into actual warfare. In the worldwide history of war, there have been many cases in which feigned war exercises have turned into a real war.

[Ko] Yes. The Sino-Japanese war ignited in July 1937 is an example of this. This war was ignited by the Japanese Army which turned its pretended exercise into an assault.

[Yun] That is correct. So, "Team Spirit-87" it can be said, is indeed a criminal war exercise. This exercise is absolutely an assault exercise to attack the North, and is the most dangerous test nuclear exercise to make our people victims of a nuclear war and turn this soil into a nuclear war site.

[Ko] True. Now, this time, the exercise will continue until May. In this respect, I think you have more to say about the criminal nature of the exercise.

[Yun] Yes. A wicked scheme of the United States and the Chon Tu-hwan group is hidden in the war exercise. Today, the pro-U.S. Chon Tu-hwan regime is in a crisis. Even the U.S. ruling circles greatly fear that South Korea will become the second Philippines and the dictatorial Chon Tu-hwan regime will fall like the Marcos regime. They are in extreme fear that the presently growing anti-U.S. and antidictatorial struggle may turn into a pan-national uprising in March or April, or in May, in particular, when the 7th anniversary of the Kwangju massacre committed by the United States and the Chon Tu-hwan group is observed. This is precisely the reason why "Team Spirit-87" is staged during this period.



Through the exercise, they are trying to bridge over the ruling crisis by aggravating the situation, creating the sentiment of crisis and terror, strangling the people's anti-U.S. and antidictatorial sentiment, and diverting their attention elsewhere.

[Ko] So, I think we can clearly realize that the United States and the Chon Tu-hwan group are the enemies of independence, democracy, and reunification, and that they are warmongers.

[Yun] You are absolutely right. The United States and the Chon Tu-hwan group must look squarely at the trend of the times and act with discretion. If they turn their faces away from the unanimous demand of our people and the international community for peace on the Korean peninsula and its reunification, and continue to persist in the war exercise, they will be denounced as warmongers. The United States must abandon its anachronistic ambition to hold onto this land as its colony. It must withdraw without delay, along with its troops and nuclear weapons. Our people will never allow the criminal act of the United States and the Chon Tu-hwan group to aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula and ignite a new war.

[Ko] You are absolutely right. Our people, I think, must closely watch the war provocation maneuvers of the United States and the Chon Tu-hwan group, and must turn out in unison in the struggle to thwart and smash their maneuvers.

#### BRIEFS

DELEGATION TO PRC -- Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA) -- A delegation of the Korea-China Friendship Association headed by U Ki-nam, vice-minister of commerce and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the association, left here for China on March 17. An educational delegation of the school of the Communist Youth League of China headed by Zhao Ximing, secretary of the party committee of the Chinese Youth Political School, arrived in Pyongyang on March 17 and a Ugandan economic delegation headed by Zachary John Olum, vice-minister of housing and urban development, on the 16th. Meanwhile, the Soviet Government trade delegation left for home on March 17. [Text] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 17 Mar 87 SK]

DELEGATION TO TUNISIA, GDR -- Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA) -- A delegation of the Korean Social Democratic Party headed by Kim Yong-chun, vice-chairman of its Central Committee, left here today to visit Tunisia and the German Democratic Republic. [Text] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 18 Mar 87 SK]

DELEGATIONS DEPART ON VISITS -- Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA) -- A delegation of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Kil Chae-kyong, vice-director of the department, to visit Ethiopia, a delegation of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea headed by Choe Yong-hae, chairman of its Central Committee, to visit the German Democratic Republic, Cuba and the Soviet Union, a Korean scientific and technological delegation headed by Yo Song-kyun, vice-chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology, to visit the Soviet Union, a delegation of the Korean Academy of Social Science headed by its vice-president Kim Chol-ski to visit the German Democratic Republic and the state Pyongyang circus troupe to visit Pakistan, left here today. [Text] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 18 Mar 87 SK]

UNIFICATION MINISTER REPORTS ON POLICY GOALS

SK190347 Seoul YONHAP in English 0244 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP) -- The South Korean National Unification Board plans to make all-out efforts to arrange a meeting between the prime ministers of South and North Korea before the end of this year and to reopen other channels of inter-Korean dialogue, National Unification Minister Ho Mun-to said Thursday.

In a report to President Chon Tu-hwan on the board's policy goals for this year, Ho said that the board will make every effort to bring forth substantial improvements in inter-Korean relations, to ease tensions on the Korean peninsula and to reunite families separated by the division of the peninsula.

On Tuesday, Seoul sent a proposal to Pyongyang suggesting that a prime ministers' meeting be held to discuss ways to improve bilateral relations and to ease tensions on the peninsula. South Korea also said that the suspended inter-Korean dialogue should be resumed and that a meeting should be held on the utilization and development of common water resources in order to create an atmosphere of trust before the premiers' meeting. The inter-Korean talks have been suspended since early last year when Pyongyang unilaterally closed all channels of dialogue, including the Red Cross and economic talks, citing as an excuse the annual South Korean-U.S. military exercise, "Team Spirit."

Ho said that his board will also make efforts to foster a "consciousness of reunification" among the members of the younger generation, who will eventually be in charge of reuniting the country, and to raise the people's cautions against the ideological confusion within South Korean society.

The unification board will also closely observe and analyze developments surrounding the Korean Peninsula and will take steps to cope with Pyongyang's schemes against Seoul, Ho said. It also will improve education and publicity about unification problems in order to strengthen the people's "conviction for reunification."

Ho also said that the board will conduct an intensive study of North Korean society in order to prove the superiority of South Korea's free, democratic system over North Korea's closed, communist system, and to effectively cope with changes in Pyongyang's power structure. The board will step up publicity activities for foreigners who come to Seoul for the next year's Summer Olympic Games, Ho added.

Chon's Remarks

SK191100 Seoul YONHAP in English 1041 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP) -- President Chon Tu-hwan said Thursday the Korean people should take the initiative in achieving national reunification and that it must be attained "with our own ability."

"If we fail to be equipped with self-reliant ability, the issue of national unification will be affected by the hands of the surrounding powers acting in their own interests and not for the benefit of our nation," Chon said.

After hearing a report from National Unification Minister Hu Mun-to on the board's policy goals for this year, Chon said North Korea has no interest in the inter-Korean dialogue but is striving these days for "disguised peace offensives" aimed at world communities. Chon said South Korea should be prepared to initiate dialogue with North Korea on behalf of national unification because Pyongyang will eventually have to respond to Seoul's call for dialogue, due to the enormous gap between the two Koreas in overall strength after 1989.

Noting that South Korea's potential for unification indicates its national strength, the president said the steady growth of national strength will be possible only when social stability is secured on the base of national reconciliation. "The essence of national reconciliation lies in the fact that the entire nation should be armed with anti-communist ideology and conviction for liberal democracy," he said, adding that the task of national unification should be carried out with the firm conviction that it can be achieved within this century. He instructed the unification board to strengthen ideology education for people from various segments of the society, including students, workers and intellectuals.

#### PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS ON DIPLOMATIC GOALS

SK190215 Seoul YONHAP in English 0202 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP) -- Korean Prime Minister No Sin-yong said Thursday that Korea's most important diplomatic goals for 1987 are to prepare for the successful staging of the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics and the peaceful transfer of governmental power. These goals, if achieved, will boost Korea's status in the international community, marking a turning point for the easing of tensions between South and North Korea and for the peaceful reunification of the peninsula, No said.

He made the remarks in an opening ceremony of the Second Diplomatic Policy Conference, slated for March 19-28 in Seoul. Attending the 10-day conference are 50 chiefs of South Korean diplomatic and consular offices in European and Middle Eastern countries, as well as the ambassador to the United Nations.

In a keynote speech, the premier said that Korea will step up its efforts to strengthen its "watertight security posture" and to promote economic development through its own efforts, while coping with changing international circumstances in East Asia, including the region surrounding the Korean peninsula.

No asked the 50 diplomats attending the conference to make all-out efforts on behalf of national security and trade, and to do their best to help the foreign countries in which they serve understand the threat faced by South Korea from the "war-like North Korean communists."



The diplomats are expected to discuss ways to achieve diplomatic goals in the fields of politics, economics, public information, culture and sports. They are also likely to take up such matters as diplomatic measures to support the success of the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics and ways to ease tensions between South and North Korea, which have increased as a result of Pyongyang's construction of a huge dam near the Demilitarized Zone. South Koreans fear that the dam could be used as a massive "water weapon" by sending wall of water down the Han River and flooding Korea's central area including Seoul. Among the other topics to be addressed are political developments on the Korean peninsula, how to break out of the stalemate in inter-Korean dialogue, ways to improve diplomatic ties with Third World and communist countries, how to reduce frictions with Korea's trade partners, countermeasures against the global protectionist trend and the introduction of state-of-the-art technologies.

#### KIM TAE-CHUNG NOT TO ENDORSE YI-KIM AGREEMENT

SK190101 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The opposition New Korea Democratic Party has avoided being split up but is expected to suffer from internal difficulties for some time.

Party adviser Kim Yong-sam yesterday met with Kim Tae-chung but failed to reach complete agreement on ways of resolving the internal dispute touched off by the so-called Yi Min-u idea.

Although he vowed to cooperate in efforts to settle the intraparty feuding, Kim Tae-chung declined to endorse an agreement reached Tuesday between Kim Yong-sam and Yi.

He opposed the proposed three-way meeting between the two Kims and Yi, indicating that he was not satisfied with the outcome of the talks between Kim Yong-sam and Yi.

"I think their talks has helped the party avoid a crisis of being ruptured," said Kim who controls the opposition party's two largest factions along with Kim Yong-sam.

"However, their agreement cannot clear up worries whether the party will be able to smoothly hold a national convention in May as scheduled and whether it will be able to strengthen its structure to push for direct presidential elections," he added.

Taking note of his reserved attitude, sources said the policy disputes which have gripped the party for more than 10 days are likely to develop into a different form of difficulties.

The sources predicted that anticipated conflicts over the mainstream factions' move to discipline Rep. Yi Chol-song might add to difficulties. Yi has been accused by the two Kims of violating the party's policy by advocating a cabinet system.

The complex situation would make it difficult for the party to resume chapter reorganization rallies, a necessary step for holding a national convention.

Kim Yong-sam and Yi issued a 4-point agreement after their talks Tuesday night, affirming that there has been no change in the party's policy of seeking direct presidential elections.



They also agreed that Yi's 7-point democratization formula does not imply a possible negotiation over the ruling camp-proposed cabinet system.

The agreement was considered to have provided a clue for resolving the intraparty dispute, said to be triggered by differences between the two Kims and Yi over policy priorities on constitutional reform and a possible change of the party presidency.

The two Kims, who also co-chair the dissident Council for the Promotion of Democracy, have long tried to suppress the Yi Min-u idea, arguing that it might lead to the acceptance of the cabinet system.

Yi had insisted that negotiations on democratization steps should precede any discussions on the form of the next government.

After his meeting with Kim Yong-sam at the CPD, Kim Tae-chung said, "As the two said, everything has turned out okay with their agreement, I'd also like to believe and hope so."

"Watching developments, I will continue to cooperate with them in our struggle for democratization and direct presidential elections," he said.

But he rejected a proposed meeting involving the two Kims and Yi, which is designed to confirm the settlement of the intraparty dispute over Yi's formula.

"Many party members have complained about talks among us three. And I think the three-way talks have not been helpful," he said.

He said, "I will meet with anyone, including party president Yi, who wants to meet me. But I will not participate in the three-way meeting."

In this connection, Kim Yong-sam said he will first have a meeting with the other Kim "before Monday." Sources said the two Kims may meet late this week.

Party sources said that when the meeting is held, Kim Yong-sam is expected to make efforts to create a climate in which talks among the three (Yi and the two Kims) can be realized.

Meanwhile, the nonmainstreamers have moved to launch political attacks against the two Kims and Yi.

"The mainstreamers have brought the party into chaos by boycotting party rallies for district chapter reorganization and collecting signatures among themselves," they said.

Seventy of the 90 NKDP lawmakers last week signed a resolution supporting the two Kims and reconfirming their policy of seeking the direct presidential election system.

KUFNCD'S ROS CHHUN MEETS HUNGARIAN DELEGATION

BK190527 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Ros Chhun, alternate member of the KPRP Central Committee and secretary general of the KUFNCD National Council, received in a cordial audience at the KUFNCD National Council office of the afternoon of 18 March the visiting delegation of the Hungarian People's Patriotic Front [PPF] led by Comrade Robert Ribanski, secretary of the PPF National Council and vice chairman of the Hungarian Solidarity Committee.

Comrade Ros Chhun warmly welcomed the delegation during its visit to the PRK and briefed it on the development of the KUFNCD during the past 8 years. He stressed that the presence of the delegation on the land of Angkor at present constitutes another proof of the consolidation and development of the bonds of solidarity between the fronts and parties of the two countries.

In his return speech, Comrade Robert Ribanski highly appreciated the rapid development of the Cambodian revolution. He voiced full support for the correct struggle of the Cambodian revolution in smashing the enemy of all stripes in defense of the fatherland and the revolutionary gains. He affirmed that the party and government of the Hungarian People's Republic and the PPF National Council will continue to give aid to the PRK and to exchange delegations in the interest of both countries.

ASSISTANCE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH USSR 17 MAR

BK190549 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0407 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Phnom Penh, 19 Mar (SPK) -- By virtue of the Cambodia-USSR Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation Agreement, a protocol on the dispatch of Soviet specialists and materials to Cambodia was signed in Phnom Penh on Tuesday, 17 March, in the presence of Tang Saroem, Cambodian minister of economic and cultural cooperation with foreign countries.

The protocol was signed by Hem Samin, Cambodian deputy minister of economic and cultural cooperation with foreign countries, and E.R. Chanderey, economic counselor of the USSR Embassy in Phnom Penh.

The Soviet specialists will assist in geological research and in improving various branches of the industry.

2 SOVIETS KILLED, 3 WOUNDED IN ROCKET ATTACK

BK190155 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 18 Mar 87

[From the "Daily Report From Various Battlefields" feature]

[Excerpt] Siem Reap Battlefield: On the morning of 6-7 March, our National Army fired two 107-mm rockets at the Vietnamese position located on the road leading toward the Angkor temples. According to information given by the local population, 2 Vietnamese soldiers were killed and 12 others were wounded. On the following day, 8 March, our National Army fired three other 107-mm rockets at the bungalow inhabited by Soviet advisers in Siem Reap town, killing two Soviet advisers and wounding three others. [passage omitted]

NGUYEN CO THACH STATEMENT IN HANOI 'DESPERATE CRY'

BK160300 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Station commentary: "Nguyen Co Thach's Recent Statement Was a Desperate Cry"]

[Text] On 11 March, at the reception hosted for visiting Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in Hanoi, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach tried to once again appeal to ASEAN and Chinas to hold talks with the so-called Indochinese countries to resolve the Cambodian issue. This statement shows the impasse and desperation of the Hanoi clique's diplomatic maneuvers. Vietnam has many times tried this trick of talks to resolve the Cambodian issue between the so-called Indochinese countries and China. However, this has been successively exposed and categorically rejected by ASEAN and countries in this region. People think that this Vietnamese maneuver is designed:

1. To get people to recognize the puppet regime proposed up by Vietnam in Phnom Penh, in other words, accept the result of Vietnam's brutal and savage act of aggression in Cambodia;
2. To blame neighboring countries to alleviate the Hanoi Vietnamese crime of massacring the Cambodian people.

Therefore, Vietnam's proposal is not for resolving the Cambodian issue but an attempt to create confusion among international public opinion on the root cause of the Cambodian problem to serve Vietnam's aggressive policy in Cambodia. However, this Hanoi Vietnamese trick fools no one. Up to now, the whole world is aware of the true nature of the Cambodian problem. It is caused by the Hanoi Vietnamese sending over 250,000 troops to commit aggression against and occupy Democratic Kampuchea, an independent and sovereign state, a member of the Nonaligned Movement, and a rightful member of the United Nations.

Furthermore, in the past more than 8 years, apart from hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese aggressor soldiers and administrative personnel, there are no foreign forces stationed in Cambodia. Vietnam's brutal and savage act of aggression to occupy Cambodia has been condemned and categorically opposed by an increasing number of peace- and justice-loving countries. At the UN General Assembly sessions in particular, 116 countries have voted to condemn Vietnam's act of aggression in Cambodia and demand that Vietnam withdraw all its aggressor forces from Cambodia to let the Cambodian people decide their destiny themselves. This clearly shows that the whole world is well aware of the true nature of the Cambodian problem. Nguyen Co Thach and other Hanoi Vietnamese leaders cannot fool or blame other people to cover up Vietnam's act of aggression in Cambodia.

During the past 8 years, the world has unanimously agreed that to resolve the Cambodian problem, the Hanoi Vietnamese should unconditionally pull out all their aggressor forces from Cambodia to let the Cambodian people decide their destiny themselves without any interference from outside. This is a necessary precondition Vietnam has to fulfill first. To achieve the orderly departure of Vietnamese forces, Vietnam should hold talks with the CGDK, which has been engaged in direct fighting with Vietnam for more than 8 years, and not with other countries or groups of countries as Nguyen Co Thach said.

The fact that Nguyen Co Thach sang this outdated song again and that Vietnam has refused to resolve the Cambodian issue according to the CGDK's flexible 8-point proposal, has further shown the international community more clearly that Vietnam does not want to resolve the Cambodian problem politically.



Vietnam will continue its war in Cambodia to achieve its ambition of setting the Indochinese Federation in accordance with Vietnam's aggressive and expansionist strategy in the region and in accordance with the global aggressive and expansionist strategy of the Soviet Union, Vietnam's master, in this region.

Therefore, the whole world has more clearly realized the necessity of continuing to unite to pressure Vietnam and providing assistance to Cambodian nationalist resistance forces and the CGDK to create more problems for Vietnam in every field, military, economic, political, and diplomatic, until it can no longer endure them and is forced to abandon its aggressive and expansionist ambition in Cambodia by unconditionally withdrawing all its aggressor forces from Cambodia to let the Cambodian people decide their destiny themselves in accordance with resolutions of the past 8 UN General Assembly sessions.

VODK EDITORIAL MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF CGDK PROPOSAL

BK170353 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Station editorial: "The CGDK and the Cambodian People and Nation Continue To Firmly Stick to the 8-Point Peace Proposal To Resolve the Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] Today, 17 March 1987, is the anniversary of the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal to resolve the Cambodian issue politically. This proposal is a historical event in our people's struggle against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators.

This proposal was put forward at a time when our struggle was developing increasingly well and the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia deteriorating and worsening. It was also made at a time when Vietnam, the Soviet Union, and their accomplices were busily carrying out deceitful maneuvers to resolve the Cambodian issue in an attempt to improve Vietnam's worsening situation.

This 8-point peace proposal calls on Vietnam to hold talks with the tripartite CGDK on the withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from Cambodia in accordance with UN resolutions. We do not demand that Vietnam pull out all its troops at once. We call on Vietnam to withdraw its forces in two stages according to a fixed schedule. Along with this, we do not ask for any compensation from Vietnam. On the contrary, Cambodia would be happy to sign a treaty of peace and nonaggression to coexist and trade peacefully forever with Vietnam once the latter withdraws all its aggressor forces from Cambodia. As for Heng Samrin and his clique, propped up by hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese troops since 1979, we would not reject them. We would allow them political rights to take part in Cambodia's four-party coalition government.

The CGDK's 8-point proposal to resolve the Cambodian issue politically is a powerful statement. As soon as it was made, it received vigorous support and assistance both inside the country and in the international arena. Every unit of the DK National Army, the tripartite forces of the CGDK, and our Cambodian compatriots at home and abroad sent messages and petitions expressing full support for this 8-point peace proposal. Everyone says that this proposal is not only the best way to resolve the current Cambodian problem, but is also a brilliant policy of great national unity and reconciliation which would ensure that our compatriots from all walks of life and of every political tendency live peacefully together forever. Our National Army and our entire people and nation consider this proposal to be the Cambodian nation's constitution.

Cambodian soldiers, militiamen, and various administrative officials who have been forced to serve the Vietnamese have also expressed satisfaction with this 8-point proposal. They believe that Vietnam should withdraw from Cambodia based on this proposal to let the Cambodian people resolve their problems themselves.

Therefore, the 8-point proposal has rallied and further united all our national forces, thus further advancing our struggle against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors. In the international arena, peace- and justice-loving countries on the five continents have actively and vigorously expressed support for the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal.

Sixty-four countries have openly and officially expressed their support for this proposal. They think that this proposal is correct, complete, and reasonable and is highly in Vietnam's favor. Vietnam has no reason to reject it. In the past year, these countries have repeatedly reiterated their support for this proposal. This has blocked the deceitful diplomatic maneuvers of Vietnam, the Soviet Union, and their accomplices and further isolated Vietnam. The fact that Vietnam has rejected this 8-point peace proposal has further shown the world more clearly Vietnam's true face as an aggressor and expansionist. The world clearly realizes that Vietnam does not really want to resolve the Cambodian problem.

Vietnam's proposals for talks to resolve the Cambodian issue were all deceitful proposals attempting to avoid withdrawing all its aggressor forces from Cambodia to let the Cambodian people themselves decide their destiny. Currently, whenever Vietnam talks about resolving the Cambodian problem, people demand that Vietnam resolve the issue according to the CGDK's 8-point proposal.

People think that this CGDK proposal is the best way for Vietnam to end its war of aggression in Cambodia. If Vietnam wants to resolve the Cambodian problem, it should follow this 8-point proposal.

So, the CGDK's 8-point peace proposal is very influential. It has further bogged down and greatly isolated Vietnam. As for us, this 8-point proposal has further rallied and united our national forces. We should continue to stick to this 8-point peace proposal and continue to unite and fight to achieve a solution to the Cambodian problem in accordance with this 8-point peace proposal for peace in Cambodia and for peace, security, and stability in Southeast Asia.

We also appeal to the international community to continue supporting this proposal vigorously and continue to pressure Vietnam in every field until it is forced to resolve the Cambodian problem according to this 8-point proposal by withdrawing all its aggressor forces from Cambodia to let the Cambodian people decide their destiny themselves as prescribed by resolutions of the past eight UN General Assembly sessions.

**KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN SENDS GREETINGS TO LIBYAN NOMINEE**

BK181213 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Vientiane, March 18 (KPL) — Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, recently sent a message of greetings to O'umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the People's Committee of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The message wrote:

On the occasion of your nomination to the post of secretary of the People's Committee of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on behalf of the Lao Government and in my own name, I am very pleased to send you my warm congratulations and wishes of good health, happiness and success in your lofty service.

**KHAMTAI SIPHANDON GREETS 66TH MPR ARMY DAY**

BK180451 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 18 Mar 87

["Text" of 18 March greetings message from General Khantai Siphandon, minister of national defense of LPDR, to Colonel General Jamsrangiyn Yondon, defense minister of MPR]

[Text] Respected comrade minister: on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the Mongolian People's Army, on behalf of all the cadres and combatants of the entire LPA and in my own name, I extend warm salutations and cordial congratulations to you and, through you, to cadres and combatants in the entire fraternal Mongolian People's Army.

Under the talented leadership of the MPRP currently led by respected and beloved General Secretary Jambyn Batmonh, succeeding the gallant tradition of Comrade Commander in Chief Sukhe Bator by maintaining all-round, close militant alliance with the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries in the socialist community, the Mongolian People's Army has grown strong continuously and become a model and modern revolutionary army and has fulfilled its historic task of defending and building the socialist fatherland and making it prosperous and strong with each passing day, thereby honorably contributing to strengthening the might of the socialist community and to defending peace in Asia and the world.

On this glorious occasion, the LPA and the Lao people wholeheartedly hail the excellent achievements and great victories recorded by the fraternal Mongolian People's Army and people.

I express deep thanks for the precious and unreserved assistance given by the Mongolian party, government, people, and army to the Lao revolution and the LPA. May the fraternal friendship and militant solidarity between the two peoples and armies last forever! May you, comrade minister, have good health and great success in your lofty responsible tasks.



**PHOUMI VONGVICHIT GIVES SEWING MACHINES TO SCHOOLS****BK181419 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Mar 87**

[Text] On the afternoon of 13 March, Phoumi Vongvichit, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the National Committee for the International Year of the Child, presented 20 sewing machines to the administrators of the Intermediate Kindergarten Teachers Training School of Dongdok and the Vocation Training School of Pak Pasak as instructional materials for the schools for training to students and promoting the family economy.

**PASABON DELEGATION RETURNS FROM VISIT TO PRK****BK181215 Vientiane KPL in English 0915 GMT 18 Mar 87**

[Text] Vientiane, March 18 (KPL) -- A delegation of the leading Lao newspaper PASABON led by Son Khamvanvongsa, alternate member of the party CC and editor-in-chief of PASABON, returned here on March 17 from a ten-day visit to the People's Republic of Kampuchea at the invitation of PRACHEACHON, organ of the PRK CC.

While there, the Lao delegation met with Men Sam-An, Politburo member of the PRK CC, head of its Organisational Commission and in charge of the Political and Ideological Guiding Commission. It signed a cooperation agreement for 1987 and for following years with a PRACHEACHON delegation led by its editor-in-chief Mrs. Sam Kimsuor, who is also member of the PRK CC.

The Lao delegation also had contacts with officials of the SPK news agency and the Kampuchean national radio and television. It toured the Kampuchean-Lao friendship hamlet in Kandal Province and some factories in Phnom Penh.

The delegation was met at the airport here by Bouaban Volakoun, vice-chairman of the State Committee for News Agency, Newspaper, Radio, and Television, Ngoun Phansiphon, Kampuchean ambassador, and Nguyen Bai, attache of the Vietnamese Embassy in Laos.

OFFICIAL ON SHULTZ CONCERN OVER MONG REFUGEES

BK190134 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] US Secretary of State George Shultz expressed concern on Tuesday over reports that Thai officials have forced more than 100 Laotian hilltribe refugees back into Laos and said he would protest to the Thai Government if the reports were correct.

"We have supported the basic idea that people who are being persecuted and who become refugees from their country deserve special attention," Shultz said in a testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Sub-committee for International Operations.

It was reported that police in Loei Province arrested 97 Mong hilltribe refugees who entered Thailand illegally on Tuesday and later handed them over to communist Laotian authorities.

Private refugee organisation sources also said that 38 Mong refugees hiding illegally in the Ban Winai camp near the Thai-Laotian border were rounded up and sent back to Laos on Sunday.

US Congressman Chet Atkins, who questioned Shultz on the subject, alleged that the 38 were turned over to Laotian soldiers, which would guarantee their incarceration and "perhaps most likely torture and even death".

But Lt-Gen Wichit Bunyawat, spokesman of the Supreme Command, said yesterday that Shultz may have been misinformed about the details of the round-up at the Ban Winai camp.

He said that the repatriated Laotians were classified as "illegal aliens" not refugees.

"We don't feel they are in any danger when they are returned to Laos. On the Kampuchean border it is different, so illegal immigrants are sent to camps, not sent back across the border," he said.

The spokesman said Thailand reserved the right to repatriate anyone entering the country illegally.

"We can't accept all these refugees, the country would be inundated," he said.

Meanwhile, the Thailand office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said in a statement that its top representative, Gerald Walzer, immediately told top Thai government officials of his "deep concern" over the two incidents of forced repatriation.

The statement said Walzer also appealed to these officials "for assurances that there would be no further forced returns and that claims to refugee status of asylum seekers now detained by authorities would be examined under the established procedures.

**Refugees Returned 'Voluntarily'**

BK190758 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 19 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The Mong tribesmen which entered Thailand illegally last Tuesday returned to Laos voluntarily and had not been forced back as presumed by American authorities, Pak Chom District Chief Amphon Nuthitacharoen told the WORLD yesterday.

The tribesmen decided to return to Laos after learning that they have little chance of resettlement in a third country and may end up in jail for illegal entry into Thailand, he said.

The Mong have no relative in the United States and have no chance for resettlement in a third country, especially the United States, he said.

97 Mong were handed over to Laotian officials who guaranteed their safety, while 38 who had been caught hiding in Ban Winai camp in Nong Khai were put in a boat at safe place, he said.

They had not been forced to return to their homeland against their will, he emphasized.

According to Interior Ministry's regulations, anyone arrested for illegal entry will be fined or face jail term before being sent back. The Thai Government has no policy to allow any of them to settle permanently in Thailand.

He said those arrested decided to return because they did not want to be jailed here.

Mr Amphon revealed that 97 Mong tribesmen had been smuggled across the Mekong river by seven Thais in a well-organized racket.

He said the group later tried to bribe officials at Ban Winai Camp so the Mong could stay inside the camp. Instead, the camp officials arrested the whole group of Thais with a quantity of AK47 ammunition.

The 97 Mong testified to the Thai officials that the arrested Thais had told them that the Thai Government had opened the camp for newly arrived refugees to resettle in third countries and asked them to pay 3,000-5,000 baht as the "fee" for taking them over to Thailand.

Mr Amphon said after the Mong learned that they had been lured by the Thais, they decided to return voluntarily to Laos rather than being jailed here.

He said the Ban Winai camp had become a cause of great concern for Thai officials as it houses about 45,000 Mong while the Thai population in Pak Chom District is only 30,000.

Chief of Ban Winai camp in Pak Chom District of Loei, Prasit Saratham, told the BANGKOK WORLD yesterday that the arrest and repatriation of another 38 Laotian Mong on Sunday had been done in conjunction with several provincial agencies.



BANGKOK POST EDITORIAL VIEWS U.S., USSR ROLES

BK160159 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Mar 87 p 4

[Editorial: "When Protocol Is Not Protocol"]

[Text] In what seems to be a continuing campaign to make the Pacific Ocean a fishing zone for the Soviet Union, the United States added another plum to the Soviets' treasure trove of diplomatic coups recently. Some of America's staunchest allies did all they could to adapt their pet protocol on nuclear-free status for the South Pacific to US needs. At the same time they have as a top priority the declaration of their watery region as a nuclear-free zone. Thus, as more and more Pacific nations are being approached by the Soviet Union to sign fishing treaties, the US delayed signing an historic document, thereby placing it squarely outside the desires of the 13-nation South Pacific Forum.

As US Congressman Stephen Solarz stated, this stubborn blow to South Pacific aspirations has handed the Soviet Union a propaganda bonanza and done incalculable harm to the profile of the United States in the region. Fijian Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, as chairman of the 13 member group of South Pacific nations, voiced his dismay at the US attitude. He has described the organisation's concern for American interests and how much they did to tailor the agreement to US demands.

One of the key concerns of the US in this region of the Pacific, where it has several island territories itself, is the passage of nuclear ships. But the protocol was prepared to specifically address this concern and would not have barred nuclear-powered ships from South Pacific waters. What the treaty does restrict is the ownership and use of nuclear weapons in the region. It also prohibits the dumping of nuclear waste, at a time when Japan has been seeking places in the area to sink its growing inventory of atomic garbage.

France, of course, categorically rejects the treaty. Its continued status as the one nation still testing nuclear weapons at its atoll complex renders it totally outside the gambit of this diplomatic initiative.

One by one the nations of the Pacific are taking a second look at their long relationship with the US. They can see that the Soviet Union has need of contact points for its huge fishing fleet. They can also appreciate that fishing trawlers loaded with electronic gear and extra fuel tanks can act as floating supply ships for submarines and perfect monitoring bases for Soviet surveillance of US ships. But most of the island nations are poor in land area, land-based resources and people. All they have are the seas around them.

Not only has the Soviet Union agreed to their need for nuclear-free status, it has also signed treaties for fishing rights with very attractive terms. Instead of aid they grant fair value for the one resource these nations possess, although the US jibbed for months at what they considered the island nations' excessively high rates for tuna fishing rights.

Although two of the countries involved, New Zealand and Australia, are developed and wealthy, most of the 13 are small and are legitimately afraid that nations far from their shores will pollute their waters with no regard for the people who live there. The United States has more to lose than good relations with small islands in the distant Pacific. The issues are sovereignty of little countries, the right to control their own resources, and acceptance that certain areas of the globe can potentially become free of nuclear weapons. These are issues that affect us all. It is to be hoped this realisation comes to be appreciated by the policymakers in Washington.

OFFICIAL SAYS USSR TO SEND MIG-21S TO CAMBODIA

BK190132 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Mar 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Soviet Union is planning to station 40 MIG-21 jetfighters in Kampuchea in the near future and is in the process of training Kampuchean pilots to fly them, a senior Thai air force official said last night.

He said some of the Kampuchean pilots have completed their training and returned to Kampuchea to wait for the first batch of the MIG-21s which are expected soon.

Air Vice Marshal [AVM] Samat Sotsathit, Director of Operations of the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF), said Laotian pilots are now flying 26 MIG-21s stationed in Laos.

But in his speech to the members of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand at Dusit Thani Hotel AVM Samat avoided mentioning the names of these countries. He was discussing the impact the RTAF's acquisition of the sophisticated F-16 jetfighters will have on the security in this region.

AVM Samat said the overwhelming air power of the Soviet-supported Vietnam, which he also did not mention by name, was the major factor which led the RTAF to buy 12 F-16 aircraft from the US.

He said Vietnam, which he described as a "country of threat to Thailand," had four times the number of jetfighters which Thailand currently has.

The RTAF has two squadrons of 36 F-5E jetfighters and has already signed a contract to buy 12 F-16 fighters from General Dynamics at a price of 8,900 million baht.

AVM Samat said the first four of the F-16s are scheduled to be delivered on May 19 next year. He said a team of Thai pilots selected for training to fly the F-16s will leave for the US in October this year. Six will be trained as instructor pilots who will come back to train other pilots.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ON CAMBODIA SETTLEMENT

BK140915 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Commenting on reports about a Vietnamese proposal for a political settlement of the Cambodian problem through the removal of the Khieu Samphan faction from the CGDK and a dialogue to be held between Vietnam, ASEAN, and China aimed at reaching agreement on a political solution to the problem, Deputy Director General of the Foreign Ministry Information Department Somphan Kokilanon made the following statement:

[Begin recording] As is known, it began with the pronouncement in Vladivostok by CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev in mid 1986 on the Soviet desire to play a constructive role in achieving stability and peace in all regions and in Asia. At that time, there was no clear mention about the Cambodian problem. It was during Shevardnadze's visit to Thailand that, for the first time, the Thai foreign minister learned of the Soviet attitude. In short, the Soviet Union expressed an interest in seeing a political settlement of the Cambodian problem. We have thus learned about the Soviet desire. As I have already mentioned, there has been no official proposal to that effect. During the Soviet foreign minister's visit to countries in ASEAN and Indochina, he again made known a similar attitude.

In my opinion, words and deeds are different matters, and we have to watch the Soviet actions. Thailand and ASEAN wish very much to see an end to the Cambodian problem in a just and legitimate manner in accordance with the human rights of the Cambodian people. If the Soviet Union, which is one of the superpowers, is sincere and matches its words with deeds, it will certainly help achieve a settlement of the Cambodian problem, fairly and rapidly, thus removing a threat to the security of countries in this region.

According to the report, the Vietnamese foreign minister has proposed that a dialogue be held between the three Indochinese countries, ASEAN, and China. On our part, Vietnam has never made any proposal directly to Thailand, nor to any ASEAN government. The proposal was therefore a verbal pronouncement which, in my evaluation, contains nothing new. Apparently, Vietnam has already made this proposal during meetings with the foreign ministers of Laos and the Heng Samrin regime.

At this stage, I can say that the attitude of Thailand and ASEAN on this matter remains the same, that is, support for a political settlement of the Cambodian problem based on resolutions adopted at the UN annual sessions for 8 years now. As for the question of dialogue among the parties involved, ASEAN supports the CGDK's 8-point proposal based on the principle that the CGDK represents the Cambodian patriotic people of the three factions, the people affected by Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia, and that the talks must be held between the two parties directly involved in the problem, that is between CGDK and Vietnam, the victim and the aggressor. Thailand and ASEAN are not parties to the fighting or to the conflict in Cambodia. Thailand and ASEAN are affected by the problem in that their security is being threatened. Thailand has to shoulder the burden of Cambodian refugees fleeing oppression and suppression by the Vietnamese soldiers, the burden solely left to Thailand because of a lack of adequate assistance from other countries which are better off than Thailand itself. Vietnam's proposal therefore, in my opinion, contains nothing new. The ASEAN governments, the CGDK itself, and the Chinese Government have a similar attitude. China's stand was confirmed by the United States following the visit by Secretary of State Shultz. According to a report, China remains firm that any dialogue must be between the CGDK and Vietnam. I do not know why Vietnam made such a proposal. It is unacceptable to many parties. The CGDK cannot accept it and China does not accept it. I really do not know why Vietnam made the proposal. Anyway, there is nothing new in the proposal. [end recording]

#### SRV SAID STRENGTHENING FORCES ON CAMBODIAN BORDER

BK181324 Hong Kong AFP in English 1121 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Bangkok, March 18 (AFP) -- The Vietnamese have strengthened forces near the Thai-Cambodian border to defend bridges that encroach on Thai territory, Army Secretary Major General Narudon Detpradiyut said Wednesday. Maj-Gen Narudon said that two bridges across the Nam Say Canal in Cambodia built or repaired by the Vietnamese within the past month now encroach upon two places in eastern Thailand. The Vietnamese have beefed up forces and supplies to defend the bridges in the event of a serious incident, the officer told a press briefing. They were also preparing for a clash with Thai forces who had pushed them out of a village in Prachin Buri's Ta Phraya District, an area they had been shelling heavily, he said.

A total of 14 Thai troops were killed and 79 wounded while one Thai civilian was killed and 19 wounded by forces across the Thai-Cambodian border from February 18 to March 16, he said. The Army secretary said seven of the Thai soldiers were killed in five border clashes in eastern Thailand.



The Army secretary general said that Hanoi had not changed its position on the military occupation of Cambodia, despite a reshuffling of the Vietnamese Government last February and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's recent Asian-Pacific tour, which included visits to the Kremlin's Indochinese allies.

Vietnamese troops and supplies have been reinforced in northwestern Cambodia's guerrilla-infested areas bordering Thailand. Fresh troops were being dispatched from Vietnam, he said.

The Army secretary rejected charges by Vietnam and its Phnom Penh ally that Thai forces had violated Cambodia's sovereignty by entering the country to back up Chinese-armed guerrillas of the United Nations-recognized Cambodian resistance coalition.

He said Vietnamese troops in Cambodia were still implementing Plan K-5 to seal off the Thai-Cambodian border from infiltrations by Cambodian resistance guerrillas. The plan also saw Cambodian civilians being forced to work on the border defences and the mining of the area.

#### 30 SRV CASUALTIES REPORTED IN BORDER CLASH

BK190318 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] Thai forces killed or wounded 30 Vietnamese soldiers who intruded from Kampuchea in pursuit of Kampuchean resistance fighters, a senior Thai military officer said yesterday.

Thai and Vietnamese forces traded dozens of rounds of artillery fire when about 50 Vietnamese soldiers crossed one kilometre into Chan Daeng, in Buri Ram on March 4, said Col Phoemsak Phuansarot, chief of staff of the Suranari Field Force.

Thai gunners responded after the Vietnamese fired 60 rounds of artillery near two villages, Col Phoemsak told a monthly military news conference. The Vietnamese retreated into Kampuchea the same day, carrying back 30 fallen comrades, he added.

Col Phoemsak said there were no Thai casualties in the clash, and could provide no information to AP on the Vietnamese operation against the resistance fighters.

Col Pheomsak said the military was still trying to evict an unknown number of Vietnamese soldiers who intruded several weeks ago into Obok Pass, in Ubon Ratchathani Province. He said four Vietnamese were killed in clashes there in late February.

#### DISSIDENT DEMOCRATS INDICATE SUPPORT FOR PREM

BK190316 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The opposition leaders were yesterday split as to whether Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon should be the target of the forthcoming no-confidence censure against the government.

But meanwhile, the dissident Democrat "Group of Jan 10" indicated late last night that it will not support a direct attack on the premier. [paragraph continues]

However, group members said their faction will decide on how they will vote in the censure after the opposition bloc thrashes out their differences on the question. The opposition leaders postponed their decision until the next meeting on March 27.

About 10 key members of the Democrat dissident faction, including Wira Musikaphong who returned from Britain yesterday morning, met over dinner at the President Hotel last night to discuss the current political situation and prepare the agenda for the group meeting set for March 26 at the residence of Chaloephan Siwikon, another leader and major financier of the faction.

Wira told reporters last night that the group still supported Premier Prem.

A group member told THE NATION that the group sees no serious charges against Prem. However, he said that the group will objectively evaluate the validity of all charges against Prem should the opposition bloc decide to include Prem in the no-confidence vote.

Earlier yesterday morning, opposition leaders held a closed-door meeting at the Imperial Hotel to discuss their strategy for attacking the government.

As expected, Progressive Party leader Uthai Phimchaichon proposed on behalf of the Group of 10 that the opposition bloc should file a no-confidence motion against the entire Cabinet of Prem, instead of censuring individual ministers.

But his proposal ran into strong objection from Ruam Thai leader Narong Wongwan, who argued that Prem was not implicated in any offences committed by certain Cabinet members.

Community Action leader Bunchau Rotchanasathian proposed that instead of attacking Cabinet members, the Opposition should analyze the general policy of the government and point out its shortcomings and failures. He singled out the high rate of unemployment and the low agriculture crop prices as weaknesses of the government.

Opposition sources said that Prachakon Thai leader Samak Sunthorawet noted that an offensive against selected ministers could be more effective. His statement was a softening of his previous stand against the premier.

United Democratic [UDP] leader Buntheng Thongsawat said that his party would leave it to the majority of the opposition leaders to resolve the question on whether to censure the premier or not.

In a subsequent meeting of UDP MPs Buntheng reported the outcome of the Imperial Hotel discussion and offered his analysis on the possibility of a Cabinet reshuffle.

The UDP leader believes there will be a small-scale Cabinet reshuffle in which some Cabinet ministers who are from the Democrat Party will be replaced by Democrats from the Group of Jan 10.

Wira said the group is not calling for a Cabinet reshuffle but would certainly welcome a reshuffle in which some members of his groups are appointed to the Cabinet.

As of yesterday, his group would still not vote for Finance Minister Suthi Singhasane, Commerce Minister Montri Phongphanit, and Agriculture Minister Gen Han Lenanon.

**PHICHAI SAYS CABINET SHUFFLE 'NOT NECESSARY'**

BK170312 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun said yesterday it was not necessary at the moment to reshuffle the Cabinet because all ministers have performed their duty to the best of their efforts.

Phichai was responding to a question by reporters over the speculated imminent Cabinet shake-up to pave the way for the appointments to Cabinet portfolios of members of the dissident "Group of Jan 10" within the Democrat Party headed by Phichai.

"Such an issue like a Cabinet reshuffle has not been raised among coalition partners or among the Democrats," the acting prime minister said.

Phichai said he personally viewed a Cabinet change as "unnecessary" for the moment because all Cabinet members have worked to the best of their efforts.

The deputy prime minister, however, did not rule out the possibility of a Cabinet reshuffle, saying it would depend on Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon.

Asked if the partial Cabinet reshuffle was necessary to head off possible political turmoil when Parliament re-opens for its ordinary session next month, he said: I foresee no untowards incident in the next parliamentary session. On the contrary, the legislative body will be able to pass more legislations as the House of Representatives will hold its meeting twice a week beginning this coming session."

Previously, Parliament holds its three-month session once a year with the Senate and the House of Representatives having a weekly meeting. Parliament passed a bill in the previous session calling two three-month sessions in order to clear the backlog of the legislations.

**CHAWALIT HINTS SOME MINISTERS 'INCOMPETENT'**

BK170238 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut dropped a strong hint yesterday that some Cabinet members have been incompetent and that the government is not serving the interests of the majority of the Thai people who are poor farmers.

He said in his concept of a "revolution," the premier will have the power to reshuffle his Cabinet whenever he wants so that he could keep every Cabinet member in line with the policy to make politics serve the majority of the people.

He said he had heard many "authoritative people" complain about some Cabinet members taking bribes and not fulfilling their duties.



Asked whether he and the army would still support Premier Prem Tinsulanon, Gen Chawalit reiterated that the army "would stand for righteousness."

He said the army would not support wrongdoings by anyone.

Gen Chawalit denied that he had already drawn up a new list for the Cabinet, but he admitted he had some "input" on the formation of the current Prem V Cabinet when negotiations on the formation of the government coalition were held at his residence.

He would not say whether he sees any need to reshuffle the Cabinet soon. "Ask me something else. I don't want to answer this question," Gen Chawalit responded when he was asked about a Cabinet reshuffle after Prem returns from the overseas trip on Thursday.

Gen Chawalit was more enthusiastic in talking about his "revolution." He said the "revolution" will bring improvement mostly to the politics and economy in this country.

He said politics will be changed in such a way that the political system, led by a strong executive branch, will serve the real needs of the majority of the people who are poor farmers.

The economic system will be geared toward developing Thailand into an "agricultural superpower," rather than a newly-industrialized country (NIC) which is the goal of the current industrialization policy.

He said industrialization does not benefit farmers and planters who constitute 70-80 per cent of the Thai population.

"We have to find ways to increase the purchasing power of these poor people. How to increase their income threefold or fivefold -- this is the key question in the 'revolution'," he said.

He said a strong and competent executive is needed to achieve the noble goal of raising the standard of living of the poor people.

Asked whether he is campaigning for popular support in preparation to assume the premiership, Gen Chawalit laughed at this question and said, "Whoever thinks so should take valium to calm down..."

He said the problem facing this government is not whether the Prem V Cabinet is an unstable coalition, but whether it is serving the people.

#### PRASONG DENIES REPORTS ON CABINET SHUFFLE

BK180145 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Mar 87 p 1

[Excerpt] Madrid -- Secretary-General to the Prime Minister, Squadron-Leader Prasong Sunsiri yesterday denied persistent reports that there will be a Cabinet reshuffle.

He expressed his belief that the reports of a pending reshuffle had been started by a group of people "without good intentions."

He commented: "This should not be happening while the Prime Minister is doing his best while abroad in negotiating in the interest of the country."

He said that Wira Musikaphong had not met the Prime Minister and that no meeting was scheduled. He added that he did not know the whereabouts of Mr Wira. [passage omitted]

OFFICER SAYS MORE CPM GUERRILLAS TO SURRENDER

BK180149 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Mar 87 p 5

[By Prachuap Butsiril]

[Text] The remnants of the guerrillas of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) who had been waging a losing war against Kuala Lumpur are expected to surrender to Thai authorities soon, the spokesman of the Fourth Army Region told THE NATION yesterday.

Spokesman Col Banchon Chawansin said none of these guerrillas will be turned over to Malaysian authorities against their will.

He said the CPM guerrillas are watching how the 89 guerrillas who surrendered in Sadao District of Songkhla last week are treated before they themselves will lay down their arms.

The communist guerrillas were afraid that once they surrendered they would be turned over to the Malaysian Government which has been tough in dealing with captured guerrillas.

Col Banchon said 66 of the 89 guerrillas who gave themselves up last week were Malaysian nationals and they will be allowed to return to their home or settle down in land to be provided by Thai authorities.

"None of these guerrillas will be sent back to Malaysia despite an agreement we have with Kuala Lumpur that they would turn over all captured Malaysian guerrillas," he said.

But so far, Malaysian authorities have made no request for a repatriation of these guerrillas.

Col Banchon said Thai authorities are waiting for Kuala Lumpur's reaction to a proposal that it adopt an amnesty programme to encourage CPM guerrillas to surrender.

But Malaysian Deputy Home Affairs Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayud said yesterday that the proposal was nothing new.

Without saying whether Malaysia agreed to the Thai proposal, he told Parliament that Malaysia also encouraged communists to return to society, the Malaysian national news agency BERNAMA reported.

He said Malaysia would discuss the recent surrender of 89 CPM guerrillas at the next Malaysian-Thai joint border committee meeting.

Col Banchon said there are 1,350-1,475 CPM guerrillas left in their jungle camps along the Thai-Malaysian border in Songkhla, Yala and Narathiwat. He said about 300 of them are Malaysian nationals.

The spokesman said the majority of them are expected to surrender soon. He attributed the impending mass defection to the implementation of the anti-communist policy No. 66/23 which has been used successfully against the Communist Party of Thailand.

"We want the Malaysian Government to understand that we sincerely want to solve the problem of communist insurgency," he said. Kuala Lumpur has been suspicious that the Thai Government is reluctant to take on the CPM guerrillas and deliberately allows them to take refuge inside Thai territory.

He said most of the CPM guerrillas have become demoralized after Thai Government forces destroyed all their major strongholds on the Thai-Malaysian border.

"The guerrillas have been under severe military pressure. And now we are giving them a chance to come out and join the society," he said.

#### Army Considering Amnesty

BK180155 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The Fourth Army Region is considering an amnesty for members of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) as part of its political offensive to solve the decades-old insurgency problem along the Malaysian border, an army source said yesterday.

The issue is being discussed at a high level and a final decision is expected soon, the source added.

A further step under consideration is to give Thai citizenship to those insurgents who give themselves up. About 80 percent of the CPM members are Malaysian nationals.

The Fourth Army Region, with approval from Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, agreed that a major political offensive is needed to end the CPM's activities because armed suppression alone has failed to solve the problem.

Senior army officers from the Army Department of Operations were recently sent to the South to study the situation.

The amnesty was first considered about five years ago while Gen Han Linanon was the Fourth Army Commander. Talks were held with members of the 10th CPM Regiment in Narathiwat and 12th CPM Regiment in Yala to discuss the possibility of an amnesty.

But the National Security Council opposed the initiative, especially the granting of citizenship to defectors. The talks were subsequently called off.

When Gen Chawalit became the Army chief, he said the CPM problem must be solved as soon as possible, the source said, adding that the citizenship issue is no longer an obstacle.

Once given citizenship, the CPM defectors would be allowed to settle down along the Thai-Malaysian border, the source said.



A Fourth Army deputy commander recently consulted local MPs, who reportedly supported the move.

Despite a Thai-Malaysian security agreement, under which any CPM insurgents arrested in Thailand must be handed over to Malaysian authorities, the source believed Malaysia is unlikely to oppose the amnesty plan so long as Thailand allows the defectors to stay.

About 1,500 to 1,800 CPM insurgents are operating along the border, particularly in the Betong salient of Yala Province.

About 80 CPM members surrendered to Thai authorities on Saturday.

CHAWALIT SAYS SHAN GUERRILLAS HIDE NEAR BORDER

BK170228 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday that soldiers are still continuing to push armed guerrillas of narcotics warlord Khun Sa from a Thai mountain range in the northern province of Chiang Mai back into Burma.

Chawalit told reporters at the army's hall that the Khun Sa's Shan State Army (SSA) guerrillas are still hiding in the mountainous area of Doi Lang on the Thai-Burmese border in Mae Ai District.

"I feel that our operation to flush out Khun Sa's troops has not been completed yet," he added.

Border patrol police sources said Khun Sa's guerrillas have assured the border forces that they would withdraw into the Burmese territory at least 10 kilometres from the Thai border.

However, the sources said the SSA guerrillas asked the Thai troops to give them two or three days for transporting their belongings and supply from their former stronghold deeper into Burma.

Border troops have set up several checkpoints along a mountainous route to Doi Lang and also dug several bunkers in the Khun Sa's fallen stronghold in anticipation of some serious incidents.

NEW COMMUNIST GROUP SAID OPERATING IN NORTHEAST

BK180938 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 18 Mar 87 pp 1, 16

[Text] Assistant Army Commander General Phichit Kunlawanit disclosed on 17 March that a new communist group in Laos has sent its men to infiltrate into many provinces in the northeastern region of Thailand. He said that Thai authorities will continue to apply General Prem Tinsulanon's policy in dealing with them. Since China has long stopped supporting communist terrorists in Thailand, Gen Phichit said he believed that this new communist group, which is training its men in southern Laos, is a pro-Soviet movement.

DO MUOI, OTHERS RECEIVE USSR CPSU DELEGATION

OW171542 Hanoi VNA in English 1535 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17 — A Delegation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union led by Aleksandra Biryukova, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived here today for a visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee.

It was welcomed by Do Muoi, Politburo member of the CPV Central Committee and vice chairman of the council of ministers. Hoang Bich Son, member of the CP Central Committee and head of its international department; and others.

Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam D.I. Kachin was present.

Talks Held

BK190157 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] On 18 March, at the party Central Committee guest house, a CPV delegation headed by Comrade Do Muoi, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, held talks with the CPSU delegation led by Biryukova, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, which is currently paying a friendship visit to our country.

During their talks, the two delegations informed each other on the socioeconomic building and development situation in their countries and exchanged views on strengthening and broadening Vietnamese-Soviet cooperation in light industrial and consumer goods production.

DONG SY NGUYEN RECEIVES VISITING USSR ENERGY TEAM

BK180814 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] The Vietnam-Soviet Union Energy Work Team held its 11th session in Hanoi from 10 to 17 March.

After considering the results of the implementation by various Vietnamese and Soviet agencies of the resolutions on energy problems issued by the 12th session of the Vietnam-Soviet Union Inter-governmental Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation and by the 10th session of the energy work team, the 11th session adopted uniform measures to fulfill both sides' commitments and responsibilities concerning Soviet supplies of materials and technical equipment and the pace of construction of power generating plants and power grid projects, especially the building of the Hoa Binh and Tri An hydroelectric power plants. These measures will create favorable conditions for ensuring the pace of construction of the projects belonging to these two plants and already approved by the upper echelons; that is, to put into operation the first generator of the Hoa Binh plant by mid-1988 and the first generator of the Tri An plant by the end of 1987.

To score practical achievements in honor of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and to fulfill its commitments, the Kharkov heavy machinery factory recently completed ahead of schedule the assembly of the first 110-megawatt generator for the Tri An hydroelectric power plant. This generator will be sent to Vietnam next week. This is the first of the four generators to be supplied by the Soviet Union to the Tri An hydroelectric power plant.

The session also worked out measures to increase the efficiency of the existing power generating projects, to promote scientific and technical cooperation, and to train cadres for Vietnam's energy sector.

On 16 March, Comrade Nguyen Dinh Tranh, vice minister of energy, and Comrade Sadovskiy, first deputy minister of the Soviet Ministry of Power and Electrification, signed the minutes of the session.

During its visit and working tour of Vietnam, the Soviet energy work team was cordially received by Comrade Dong Sy Nguyen, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers.

TRUONG CHINH AWARDED CZECHOSLOVAK ORDER 18 MAR

OW182002 Hanoi VNA in English 1533 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18 -- President of the State Council Truong Chinh was awarded here this afternoon the Klement Gottwald Order, a high distinction of Czechoslovakia, on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Present at the conferment ceremony held at the presidential palace were Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Pham Van Dong, chairman of the Council of Ministers; Nguyen Huu Tho, vice president of the State Council and chairman of the National Assembly; and other senior Vietnamese officials.

Czechoslovak Ambassador to Vietnam Morislav Kapoun, empowered by President Gustav Husak, presented the Vietnamese leader with the order.

Speaking on this occasion, the Czechoslovak ambassador said that the Czechoslovak state's decision to confer the order on President Truong Chinh was an acknowledgement of his important contributions to consolidating and strengthening the friendship between the parties, states and peoples of Vietnam and Czechoslovakia.

In reply, President Truong Chinh expressed sincere thanks the Czechoslovak party and state for the honour which, he said, has demonstrated the unshakable friendship and solidarity between the two peoples.

Also today, President Truong Chinh cordially received Czechoslovak Ambassador Morislav Kapoun at the presidential palace.

Receives Ambassador

BK190648 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] On 18 March, at the presidential palace, Truong Chinh, chairman of the Council of State, received Morislav Kapoun, Czechoslovak ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country.

During the reception, Chairman Truong Chinh welcomed the positive activities undertaken by Ambassador Morislav Kapoun in the very first days of his tour of duty in Vietnam and his eagerness to see the longstanding friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries further developed and consolidated. Chairman Truong Chinh wished Ambassador Kapoun good health and many fine results in performing his heavy duties.



Ambassador Morislav Kapoun sincerely thanked Chairman Truong Chinh for giving him a cordial reception. He expressed gratitude to the Vietnamese agencies concerned for creating favorable conditions for him to carry out his activities in a convenient and effective fashion, thereby contributing to further successful development of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

HUNGARIAN FRONT DELEGATION ARRIVES IN HANOI 13 MAR

BK170931 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] A delegation of the National Council of the Hungarian Patriotic People's Front led by Comrade Robert Ribanszki, secretary of the front and vice chairman of the committee for solidarity and friendship with the peoples of other countries, arrived in Hanoi on 13 March at the invitation of the VFF Central Committee. On hand to receive the delegation at Noi Bai International Airport were the comrade representative of the VFF Central Committee Secretariat; Comrade Bela Benyei, Hungarian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam; and the comrade first secretary of the Hungarian Embassy in Vietnam.

Hands Over Gifts List

BK180734 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] On 16 March at the Friendship House in Hanoi, Comrade Robert Ribanszki, vice chairman of the Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With the Peoples of Other Countries and head of the delegation of the National Council of the Hungarian Patriotic People's Front which is currently visiting our country, called at the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Peoples and handed to Comrade Trinh Ngoc Thai, general secretary of the committee, a list of more than 38 metric tons of goods composed of medicines, fabrics, garments, and foodstuffs worth 2 million forints, Hungarian currency. These goods were gifts from the Hungarian people to the Vietnamese people.

NGUYEN VAN LINH RECEIVES PRK PARTY DELEGATION

OW171904 Hanoi VNA in English 1531 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17 -- Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, received here today the visiting delegation of the Phnom Penh party and people's committees led by Nguon Nhel, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea [PRPK] central committee and secretary of the Phnom Penh party committee.

It was attended by Nguyen Thanh Binh, politburo member of the CPV Central Committee and secretary of the Hanoi party committee.

General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh expressed his elation at achievements recorded by the Kampuchean people in general and the Phnom Penh population in particular in national revival and at the development of cooperation between Hanoi and Phnom Penh.

He reaffirmed that, in whatever circumstances, the party, government and people of Vietnam will always stand side by side with the fraternal Kampuchean people in building and defending their country.

In his reply, Nguon Nhel expressed his confidence that under the leadership of the CPV Central Committee, the fraternal Vietnamese people will overcome all difficulties to successfully implement the resolutions of the 6th CPV Congress.

He highly valued the results of multifaceted cooperation between Hanoi and Phnom Penh, and between Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh over the past years.

#### TRAN XUAN BACH RECEIVES YOS SON LED DELEGATION

OW171834 Hanoi VNA in English 1521 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17 -- A delegation of the Commission for External Relations of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee led by Yos Son, member of the PRPK Central Committee and head of the commission, visited Vietnam from March 3-17.

While here, the delegation paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and visited the late president's home and office.

It was warmly received by Tran Xuan Bach, Politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee.

The delegation had working sessions with Hoang Bich Son, member of the CPV Central Committee and head of its international department. The two sides informed each other of the revolutionary situation of their respective countries, compared notes on international and regional situation, and discussed measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation for the coming period.

#### DEFENSE MINISTER GREETES MPR COUNTERPART ON ARMY DAY

OW161808 Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 16 -- Defence Minister Gen Le Duc Anh has sent greetings to his Mongolian counterpart, Lt-Gen [rank as received] Jamarangiyn Yondon, on the 66th anniversary of the Mongolian Army Day (March 18).

The message notes that "The Mongolian Army under the leadership of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) has always fulfilled their duty, firmly defending the socialist Mongolia, thus contributing to the defence of world peace".

"We rejoice at the further consolidation and development of the friendship, militant solidarity, and fraternal cooperation between the two peoples and armies." The message says.

#### PHAM VAN DONG, GANDHI EXCHANGE GREETINGS

OW180751 Hanoi VNA in English 0727 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18 -- Chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi have exchanged messages of greetings on the 15th anniversary of the upgradation of diplomatic representation between the two countries to the ambassadorial level.

In his message, Chairman Pham Van Dong said:

"Over the past 15 years, many important events have marked the fine development of the friendship and multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries laboriously fostered by the late President Ho Chi Minh and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The Indo-Vietnamese friendship has become an exemplary symbol of the loyalty and purity and played an important role in the common struggle for peace, independence and freedom of nations.

"The promotion of the friendship and all-round cooperation between the two countries is of strategic importance and it has exerted a positive impact on the cause of peace in Asia and the world as a whole".

The message wishes the Indian people prosperity, happiness and ever-greater success on the road to the 21st century. It wishes the Indo-Vietnamese friendship and all-round cooperation further consolidation and development.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said in his message:

"I fully share your view that the consolidation of relations between our two countries is of vital importance. I am glad that, furnished a timely opportunity, to impact further content to our bilateral relationship. It is a matter of particular satisfaction that an agreement outlining principles for bilateral cooperation in the field of oil and gas was concluded during the visit. This is an area in which we can establish a model for South-South cooperation. I hope that an agreement on our cooperation in this field can be concluded soon.

"I remain convinced that a strong relationship between Vietnam and India constitutes a durable basis for peace and stability in the region. We are determined to consolidate this mutually beneficial relationship and to further strengthen our cooperation in diverse fields.

"I take this opportunity to wish you good health and happiness. Please also convey my greetings and best wishes to your colleagues in the government and to the friendly people of Vietnam".

#### NGUYEN VAN LINH RECEIVES NORWEGIAN DELEGATION

OW171848 Hanoi VNA in English 1523 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17 -- CPV General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh received here this afternoon the visiting delegation of the Socialist Left Party of Norway led by Vice-Chairwoman Kristi Nost.

Speaking to his guests, the Vietnamese party leader acclaimed the result of their visit to Vietnam as a new development of the relations between the two parties.

General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh briefed them on the Vietnamese people's great efforts in national construction, particularly since the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam. He sincerely thanked the Socialist Left Party and other progressive forces of Norway for their valuable support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's struggle and expressed the wish for further consolidation and development of the friendship between the two parties.



Vice-Chairwoman Kristi Nost expressed fine impression of her visit to Vietnam during which she and her entourage had witnessed the Vietnamese people's determination to rebuild their country. She said she was confident that the Vietnamese people would overcome all difficulties to obtain ever greater success in their revolutionary cause.

#### Delegation Departs 18 Mar

OW182024 Hanoi VNA in English 1446 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18 -- A delegation of the Socialist Left Party of Norway led by Mrs. Kristi Nost, its vice chairwoman, left here for home today after visiting Vietnam from March 6-18 at the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPVCC).

During its stay here, the delegation paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and visited his home and office. The delegation was received by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPVCC. It toured Ho Chi Minh City, Haiphong, the northern border province of Ha Tuyen, several economic and cultural establishments and some Norwegian-funded projects.

Talks were held on March 8 between the delegation and a delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam led by Do Muoi, member of the Political Bureau of the CPVCC.

The vietnamese delegation acclaimed the achievements of the Socialist Left Party of Norway and all the other forces of peace and progress in Norway in their struggle for a better life, democracy, peace and disarmament, and for building northern Europe into a region without nuclear weapons.

The Norwegian delegation praised the three Indochinese countries' goodwill proposal aimed at solving the regional problems through negotiations, and making Southeast Asia a region of peace, stability and cooperation.

The two sides fully supported the untiring efforts of the soviet Union and other peace-loving nations to eliminate nuclear weapons and establish a comprehensive international security system. They demanded that the U.S. respond to the Soviet proposal on the elimination of medium-range missiles from Europe.

They discussed measures to further enhance the friendship and solidarity between the two parties and the two peoples.

#### GUYANESE LEADERS RECEIVE TRAN QUANG CO IN GEORGETOWN

BK190247 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] On 9 March in Georgetown, Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte received Vice Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co, head of the Vietnamese delegation to the special conference on Latin America and the Caribbean of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Committee. President Hoyte affirmed: The Guyanese Government and people once supported the Vietnamese people in the just struggle against foreign aggression and domination and for the right to choose their own road of development. Today, they still share the legitimate aspirations of the Vietnamese people who are struggling for peace, independence, and development.

President Hoyte asked Vice Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co to convey to Chairman of the Council of State Truong Chinh and other Vietnamese leaders his wishes for good health. He also wished the Vietnamese Government and people many successes in building a prosperous and happy country.

On 12 March, Hamilton Green, first vice president and prime minister of Guyana, also received in his office Vice Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co.

TRUONG CHINH RECEIVES VOLUNTEERS TO LAOS, PRK

OW171828 Hanoi VNA in English 1517 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17 -- President of the State Council Truong Chinh received here today delegates to the conference of young volunteers now performing internationalist duties in Laos and Kampuchea.

In a cordial atmosphere, President Truong Chinh said: "Over the past decades, the Vietnamese people have given the fraternal Lao and Kampuchean peoples wholehearted assistance and vigorous support. Together with the Soviet Union, other socialist countries, and all peace and justice-loving peoples in the world, Vietnam will continue to help Laos and Kampuchea in the new revolutionary stage."

"Representing the young Vietnamese generation", he went on, "you have great pride of directly discharging internationalist duties in Laos and Kampuchea. Your fruitful assistance has made important contributions to further enhancing the three Indochinese countries' special alliance and consolidating the all-round strength of the socialist outpost."

"At present," President Truong Chinh said, "when imperialism and other international reactionary forces are frenziedly attempting to undermine the Indochinese countries' revolution, our assistance to Laos and Kampuchea is all the more important".

Present on the occasion was Vu Mao, member of the CPV Central Committee and first secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee.

Conference Ends 18 Mar

OW182012 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18 -- A conference of representatives of young Vietnamese volunteers performing internationalist duties in Laos and Kampuchea was held here from March 16-18 under the auspices of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee.

More than 150 representatives of various units of young Vietnamese volunteers in Laos and Kampuchea attended. Members of the Lao and Kampuchean Embassies in Hanoi were present.

Young Vietnamese volunteers have over the past decades always been present at the most difficult fronts in the two fraternal countries to help the Kampuchean and Lao peoples in national defence and socialist construction. In fighting, they have closely coordinated their actions with the brother armies of Laos and Kampuchea to defeat the enemy and defend the revolutionary administration at all levels.

They have won the love and respect from the working masses in these two countries. In peaceful construction, young Vietnamese volunteers have worked with might and main to help Laos and Kampuchea in various economic fields, especially in communications and transport, geological survey, capital construction and healthcare. Many of them have been awarded high distinctions by the party and state of Laos and Kampuchea for their bravery in fighting and outstanding contributions to national building.

The conference paid much attention to working out measures to improve the work of young Vietnamese volunteers in Laos and Kampuchea, especially their cooperation with the young generation in the two countries in various fields. Many delegates, in their addresses at the conference, expressed firm resolve to fulfill their internationalist duties entrusted them by the party and people with a view to joining the fraternal Lao and Kampuchean peoples to make the three Indochinese countries a firm outpost of socialism in Southeast Asia.

On the occasion, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee presented 21 units of young Vietnamese volunteers in Laos and Kampuchea with the rotation emulation banner for their outstanding services.

#### NGUYEN NGOC TRIU CHAIRS SRV-BULGARIA ASSOCIATION

OW171852 Hanoi VNA in English 1527 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17 -- The Vietnam-Bulgaria Friendship Association met here today under the chairmanship of Nguyen Ngoc Triu, member of the CPV Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and president of the association.

The meeting reviewed the association's activities in the past year and discussed a program of action for the period ending 1987.

#### OFFICER DISCUSSES BORDER SECURITY MAINTENANCE

BK171027 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 1 Mar 87 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant General Dinh Van Tuy: "Safeguard Border Sovereignty and Security in the Present Situation"]

[Text] Our country has almost 8,000 km of borderlines (including those on land and along the coasts). Owing to topographical and demographical conditions, the situation along the various borderlines have long been complicated. In recent years, as international reactionaries have colluded with imperialists to wage a multifaceted war of sabotage to weaken and then annex our country, the situation along the various borderlines has given rise to even more complicated issues than before.

As far as security is concerned, the northern borderline has been presenting many problems hourly and daily. Along with launching armed encroachment operations against our territory and shelling attacks on many areas, the enemy has frequently sent groups of scouts, spies, and commandos to our territory to study the situation, set up underground bases, and disrupt security in the border region. They have used commodities as a means to sabotage us economically and politically and to conduct espionage activities. They have conducted psychological warfare activities under different forms in an attempt to sabotage us ideologically and recruited dissatisfied, degenerate, and deviant elements to serve as their henchmen while stepping up efforts to plant their spies and build up underground forces in an attempt to start rebellions from within in support of military attacks from outside when conditions permit.



Recently, they tried to send back to Vietnam people who had fled to China earlier in a bid to heap political, economic, and social difficulties on us.

Along the coasts, foreign vessels have illegally encroached into our territorial waters for fishing and spying. Illegal emigrants have continued to flee abroad by sea, and in more than a few cases, they have been intercepted by plundering sea pirates who commit murder and rape women.

The Vietnamese-Lao and Vietnamese-Cambodian borderlines are borders of friendship that are being built and consolidated by our country and the fraternal countries concerned in accordance with the treaties and agreements already signed, but the enemy has been using every means to sabotage this by conducting espionage activities, setting up reactionary organizations, using bandits and the Pol Pot army remnants, and so forth.

In addition to these cross-border smuggling activities, the rampant exploitation of and trading in sandalwood and so on are posing new problems concerning political security, social order, and safety.

In the face of this situation, we are determined to defeat the enemy's schemes and maneuvers and firmly defend the fatherland's frontiers.

The border defense forces -- the core force of the struggle to safeguard border sovereignty and security -- have been striving to surge forward and fulfill their tasks successfully.

On the northern border, units of the border defense forces have firmly grasped the enemy conditions and the local situation and have actively fought the enemy as soon as they crossed the border.

Enemy activities along the sea coasts and other borderlines have also been checked and curtailed, step by step, by our armed forces and people.

The struggle against the secret enemy has also yielded results. Reconnaissance units of the border defense forces have coordinated with the people's public security forces in investigating and uncovering a number of reactionary organizations operating under the guidance of foreign intelligence services, and also in destroying some corridors used by espionage agents to slip into our country from abroad.

The border defense posts have also coordinated, with the people's public security and customs forces, in investigating and foiling hundreds of cross-border smuggling operations, seizing a large quantity of goods of high economic value.

However, in view of the schemes pursued by the expansionists and imperialists against the three Indochinese countries and Southeast Asia as a whole, the situation along our country's various borderlines will, in the coming period, continue to develop in a complicated manner, and the duty to defend the border areas will remain very heavy. The resolution of the sixth party congress points out, in the section dealing with national defense and security: "Intensified efforts must be made to organize the defense of sovereignty and firmly safeguard the various borderlines, airspace, territorial waters, and off-shore islands, as well as to build and consolidate the border defense forces to make them firm and strong."

This reflects the concern of the entire party over the current border situation, and it is one of the new features of the sixth party congress resolution. We understand that the undertaking to defend the border, which is closely related to the national struggle and the class struggle, is a very difficult, complicated, fierce, and protracted struggle. [paragraph continues]

It is an undertaking of the entire party, people, and army, as well as of all sectors and branches under the centralized and unified leadership of party committees echelons from the central to local level.

The border defense forces must be made firm and strong in the spirit of the sixth party congress resolution so that they can satisfactorily fulfill their functions as the staff of the party and the state with regard to the defense of the border areas and, at the same time, worthily serve as the specialized core force for border defense.

For the long term, the border defense forces must, together with the sectors concerned, propose that the party issue at an early date a special resolution on border defense, and that consequently the state promulgate the necessary regulations and laws to provide a legal basis for the border defense units to carry out their tasks.

In 1987, the border defense forces must serve as the staff of the local party committee echelons and administrative bodies in bringing into play the aggregate strength of the various sectors, forces, and the people to build a border defense battleground with a widespread people's defense line, and, at the same time, they must intensify their border defense operations in order to effectively struggle against various types of counterrevolutionaries and other undesirable elements, closely control and monitor movements across the borders, always stand ready to fight and take the initiative in all circumstances, promptly defeat all attempts by the enemy to intrude into and attack our border and sea areas, and smash all the enemy's schemes to disrupt security and foment rebellion. They must also resolutely check and effectively deal with international smugglers and illegal emigrants by land and by sea, and actively expand their control over the fatherland's territorial waters to intercept and seize encroaching foreign vessels.

The border defense forces will strive to fulfill their border defense and unit-building tasks satisfactorily in all respects so as to contribute, together with the entire party, people, and army to defeating the multifaceted war of sabotage, the border-nibbling war, and other activities by the enemy; and to advance step by step toward standardization and modernization with a view to carrying out the sixth party congress resolution successfully.

#### HAI HUNG IMPROVES QUALITY OF PARTY MEMBERS

BK160337 Hanoi NHAN DAN In Vietnamese 2 Mar 87 p 3

[By Tran Quynh]

[Text] By 20 January, the office of the Hai Hung provincial party committee had received reports from almost all district party committees in the province on the results of the drive "to improve the quality of party members and enhance party militancy." The standing body of the provincial party committee had also received reports from provincial party committee members, leading cadres of various organs and sectors in the province, and key cadres of all districts on the results of their meetings with the masses.

These two tasks reflected to some extent the provincial party committee's close and judicious leadership over the implementation of the party Central Committee Secretariat's directive on the 57th founding anniversary of the party. Shortly after receiving the directive the provincial party committee and all district and city party committees were able to formulate plans for the implementation of the directive, thus making it possible for all party members and cadres from the provincial to grass-roots levels to understand thoroughly the objectives and requirements of this political indoctrination drive. [paragraph continues]



Despite the fact that they were embarking on the 5th month-spring crop cultivation season and preparing for the Year of the Cat Tet celebration, almost all units in the province held meetings of party chapters and party organizations to study and discuss part five of the sixth party congress' political report on "improving the quality of party members and enhancing party militancy," as well as to discuss plans for the implementation of the three economic programs by their localities and themselves. Some 60 to 70 percent of the number of party chapters and party organizations held their meetings on 3 February. Many party organizations were able to encourage between 85 and 90 percent of their members to attend meetings. Through various party indoctrination sessions, cadres and party members could see clearly the need to improve their quality and struggle against all negative phenomena in order to advance all the political tasks laid down by the sixth party congress and provincial party organization congress.

In the indoctrination drive, all party committee echelons paid attention to correcting their shortcomings. During the self-criticism and criticism drive last year, the provincial party organization also struggled against all negative phenomena in both the party and society. A number of cadres were criticized for practicing corruption, enjoying special privilege or special right, oppressing the masses, illegally occupying land, and possessing houses beyond the prescribed criteria. Many of them were disciplined, condemned in public, or prosecuted by the law. Those cadres and party members who were given special privileges or special rights to buy motorcycles, radios with cassette players, and refrigerators at cheap prices had been asked to turn in these goods.

However, the correction of shortcomings still has not actively been performed in many localities in the province. This time the provincial party committee considers the need to continue correcting both old and new shortcomings as a task that must be carried out thoroughly and vigorously. Some 18 party members and 80 families in a village of Phu Tien District are known to have occupied land illegally for many years. These comrades have now corrected their shortcomings and set an example for other families to follow by returning the illegally occupied land to the collective. In Tu Loc, My Van, and Chi Linh Districts, party members who have illegally occupied land are subject to disciplinary action by their respective party organizations and are being asked to return all the illegally-occupied land to the cooperatives concerned. Cadres who built houses on illegally occupied land have also been asked to tear them down or pay appropriate compensation for the illegal occupation of land. Many party chapters and party organizations have begun to collect long-standing debts. Some 45 party members in Ta Xa village have promised to return 34 metric tons of paddy to a cooperative from which they borrowed in the past.

All party organizations have also dealt strictly and justly with those party members who have violated party discipline or have become deviant and degenerate. The Tu Loc District party organization has taken disciplinary action against 206 party members. Many of these party members have been expelled from the party.

Meanwhile, the provincial people's court and district people's courts have tried a number of cadres who took advantage of their positions and powers to embezzle socialist property. These include Truong Van Day, former director of the My Van District foreign trading corporation who made under-the-counter deals with bad elements to embezzle large amounts of money and export goods; Nguyen Van Tap, a cadre of Chi Linh District who forged documents to misappropriate money belonging to families of fallen combatants and war invalids; and Phung Van Khoi, a village party committee secretary who resorted to tricks to steal 92 metric tons of paddy and 700 dong from a cooperative. These cadres will soon be exposed before the law and people.



The provincial party committee clearly stipulates that provincial and district cadres must set examples in remedying shortcomings. Some 40 cadres of provincial and Hai Duong city levels who have either occupied more housing space than authorized or have still kept their formerly allocated houses, even though they have already been allocated new ones, are now definitely forced to transfer their formerly allocated houses to those who have not had a house or have too narrow housing space.

Tet commodities were recently equally distributed in Hai Hung Province. The provincial party committee has issued directives to sternly prohibit excessive carousing, gift giving, and granting awards contrary to policy. Agencies and enterprises are strictly prohibited from using public assets, budget, welfare funds or any other funds as gifts or to buy gifts for higher ranking cadres. Leading cadres in the province are strictly prohibited from accepting gifts and "monetary awards" from subordinates.

On Tet and other holiday occasions of previous years, the representatives of agencies in the provinces used to go to villages and insist on buying commodities at cheap prices, causing discontent among peasants and difficulties to lower level management and leading cadres. Last Tet, a directive was issued prohibiting agencies from buying pork and sticky rice at cheap prices from agricultural cooperatives, causing losses to these cooperatives. This decision has been wholeheartedly supported by cadres and people in the province, especially when the provincial authorities were equally distributing Tet gifts to all people from the provincial party committee secretary and the provincial people's committee chairman to all cadres and personnel and retirees.

Also on the principle of social equality, the provincial party committee stipulated rules of equality on financial expenses and the use of cars by agencies in the province. Cadres of the administration used to receive higher allowances and better housing facilities than cadres of the party and mass organizations. Expenses for meetings, temporary duty travel, and entertainment of administration agencies were also higher than those of the other two groups, thus causing unfairness and intramural disunity. To overcome this situation, the provincial party committee stipulates that agencies in the province will be subject to the same system of financial expenses. Besides wages and allowances prescribed by the state, cadres of the same ranks in the party, mass organizations, and administration will be governed by the same policies concerning purchasing equipment and other facilities and concerning expenses for temporary duty travel, meeting, and entertainment. Except for those cadres authorized by the state to use public cars, other cadres no matter of what ranks, may not use public cars as their personal ones. They may not use public cars to go and visit their families, to go to various conferences or to perform temporary duties within the city of Hai Duong.

In commemorating the party founding anniversary, various comrade members of the provincial party committee's standing body, members of district and town party committees, and heads of various branches and sectors of districts in the province organized meetings with the people of all strata. At each meeting, key cadres cordially talked with the people, disseminated to them results of the Sixth CPV Congress, listened to and decided on various proposals made by the people. After each meeting, cadres made a written report and submitted it to the provincial party committee's standing body. Results indicated that these are very useful meetings because they have contributed to helping cadres and sectors overcome such negative phenomena as bureaucratism and neglect of realities at grass-roots units as well as helping provincial and district party committees change their leadership style. Through these meetings cadres better understood the people's aspirations and their problems. Many cadres promptly solved various problems raised by the people which included the improvement of distribution and supply of materials to peasants who engaged in the planting of 5th-month spring rice and other subsidiary food crops.  
[paragraph continues]

Cadres at some villages, after hearing problems raised by the people regarding their early ear-growing rice seedlings, promptly discussed measures and retransplanted them to proper ricefields. A key cadre who organized meetings with personnel at a provincial hospital reported proposals made by physicians and doctors to the provincial party committee's standing body and the people's committee. Their proposals received prompt attention and irrational regulations were removed. As a result, more medicines were supplied to the hospital, more equipment for medical treatment were provided, and more allowances were granted to physicians working at night shifts or performing complicated operations.

There were plentiful ideas and proposals made by the people at various meetings and many of them were solved accordingly. For unsolvable problems, cadres concerned will forward them to the higher echelons. This has helped assuring the people's trust and confidence in the party leadership.

The political activities in commemorating the 57th founding anniversary of the CPV have brought about improvement in quality and leadership role of the Hai Hung provincial party organization. However, according to the assessment of the provincial party committee's standing body, this was only an initial result. Enhancement of quality and revolutionary ethics for party cadres and members and improvement for their leadership still need further uniform, positive, and urgent measures. The Hai Hung provincial party committee is taking measures to consolidate its basic party organization, continue to deal with party members who violated party discipline, expel disqualified members from the party, positively participate in the movement to purify the party, and overcome negative phenomena within the party, state apparatus, and in society.

#### ENGINEERING, METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY REORGANIZED

OW171815 Hanoi VNA in English 1511 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 17 -- In the first half of 1986, the engineering and metallurgical industry recorded 44% of the planned output value for 1986, an increase of 8% over the same period last year. Fifteen out of the 29 enterprises registered 45% of the planned output value. Better results still have been attained by a number of plants: the copper and aluminium wire factory, the No 1 motor-car spare parts factory, the No 1 precision engineering plant, the power-meter factory, the materials and equipment enterprise...

Production has been reorganized; mergers effected of sections and shops; intermediary links reduced; personnel not directly involved in the production process pared down; auxiliary shops expanded to employ redundancies from the main shops in the production of subsidiary product lines. The Thai Nguyen iron and steel complex has thus eliminated a total of 139 sections, shops and brigades. In the ministry, mergers have been effected of various departments and training schools have been reorganised to better meet the actual needs of production. Parallel with personnel streamlining, norms have been scrutinized by the ministry and the plants, and readjusted wherever necessary. They have been reduced by 20.6% in engineering technology, 9.7% in ferrous-metal technology, 16.1% in non-ferrous metal technology every ton of tin...

Fourteen technical innovations have been applied. Vang Danh coal is used in iron smelting at the No 1 machine tool factory, resulting in an economy of 100 kilos of fuel per ton of product. Likewise, at the Thai Nguyen iron and steel complex, fuel consumption per ton of production has been reduced by 217 kilos. Economic association among enterprises has resulted in an economy of 10-20% in materials and equipment. Production of auxiliary lines has helped improve the living conditions of the workers.



PMA BLAST PROBE CONTINUES; AQUINO VISITS WOUNDED

HK190415 Hong Kong AFP in English 0411 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Baguio, Philippines, March 19 (AFP) -- Disgruntled soldiers or leftist rebels could have planted a bomb that killed four people and wounded 43 others at the elite Philippine Military Academy (PMA) here, the regional military commander said Thursday.

Brigadier General Jesus de la Cruz told reporters, as President Corazon Aquino arrived in this northern mountain city Thursday, that the bomb had been planted by experts familiar with the PMA grounds.

The explosion, apparently caused by a time bomb, destroyed the PMA grandstand from which Mrs. Aquino is scheduled to address on Sunday the 1987 graduating cadets of the elite school -- the local equivalent of Britain's Sandhurst or the U.S. West Point. A colonel, two sergeants and a civilian woman died and 43 people were injured during the blast Wednesday.

Mrs. Aquino, accompanied by Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto and top military and intelligence advisers, was briefed by PMA and local military officials on her arrival here Thursday, but no details of the talks were immediately available.

"There are so many angles, part of which of course is this terrorist business ... part was probably disgruntled personnel, whether soldiers or civilians," Brig. Gen. de la Cruz said. But he added: "It's definitely done by an expert, it could not be done by an amateur because he knows where to place it ... obviously he knows the design of the grandstand."

The general said that the device was most likely a time bomb because investigators had found a watch dial in the wrecked grandstand that had stopped at 9.45 a.m. (0145 GMT) Wednesday, the time of the explosion. He said that the bomb appeared to have been made from a plastic explosive.

But Brig. Gen. de la Cruz added that he had received reports that a small plane was seen flying over the academy grounds at about the time of the explosion. "Some people said there are now devices which could be triggered as far as two kilometers away," he said, adding that this raised the possibility that the bomb could have been set off by remote control.

However, the head of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, retired General Luis Villareal, said he was sure that the explosive device was a time bomb and added that it could have been planted the night before the explosion. Mr. Villareal said he believed that the PMA graduation ceremony would go ahead Sunday with Mrs. Aquino as the guest of honor, saying: "You know how she is. The more threats she has, the more she will defy (death)."

Brig. Gen. de la Cruz said he did not know if the bomb had been intended for Mrs. Aquino. He said that those who planted the bomb must have been familiar with the structure of the grandstand because the device had been clamped to a steel beam holding up a large portion of the roof. "He must have been observing the structure for quite some time and he knows where to get in," Brig. Gen. de la Cruz added.

He said he could not think of a motive behind the bombing, saying "why would anyone want to do it?" [passage omitted]



Presidential Spokesman Teodoro Benigno told reporters that investigators have pinpointed three groups that could have been behind the bombing, but firmly refused to identify the groups.

He said Mrs. Aquino was "profoundly shaken and moved" as she visited those wounded in the bombing, and asked PMA superintendent Brigadier General Rudolfo Biazon a lot of questions when she visited the damaged grandstand. He also announced that the PMA graduation would push through on Sunday with Mrs. Aquino as guest speaker, saying that if the incident was intended to scare away the president, "it achieved the complete opposite effect."

Meanwhile, one of the injured in the hospitals, Cadet Commandant Colonel Lysander Abadia, supported the statement of Brig. Gen. de la Cruz, saying it was "most probable" that communist rebels were behind the bombing but it was also possible that it was the handiwork of soldiers. "If it is one of our kind, the motivation could really be very great," he said. "The motivation could be belief and a cause, or money."

"I think the most probable could be the CPP, but I could be wrong," he said from his hospital bed, referring to the banned Communist Party of the Philippines. "The ultimate aim is to embarrass the government," he added.

Mr. Benigno said the bomb was a home made device made from three pieces of B-40 grenades that are ordinarily used against tanks, which went off simultaneously in the grandstand's rafters. He said that presidential guards could have detonated the devices if they were really intended for Mrs. Aquino since they would be on the spot 24 hours before she arrives and had the means to uncover any explosives.

#### Army Investigating 3 Groups

OW190807 Tokyo KYODO In English 0745 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Baguio, Philippines, March 19 KYODO — Three groups are being observed by military investigators probing Wednesday's bombing of the Philippine Military Academy, Presidential Spokesman Teodoro Benigno said Thursday. Benigno said the explosion that ripped through the grandstand was caused by three locally-made B-40 antitank bombs mixed with gasoline and placed in the rafters of the grandstand.

Benigno, who accompanied President Corazon Aquino when she left by plane Thursday morning to the mountain resort of Baguio, 210 kilometers north of Manila, to visit the dead and survivors of the incident, would not reveal the identities of the groups, pending appropriate action to be taken against them. "But the president knows about them," he told reporters.

The bombing incident in the country's elite military school occurred during rehearsals for Sunday's graduation that Aquino, as commander-in-chief, is scheduled to address. The blast, four days before Aquino's visit, resulted in the four deaths, including a lieutenant colonel, and wounding 35.

The lone female fatality was identified as Cuevas, a proxy of Loreta Baquiran, wife of a military officer who was killed by the rebels last year. The late Col. Rex Baquiran was to be awarded Sunday posthumously by Aquino.

Reporters were told by hospital authorities that a woman who was a stand-in for Aquino during rehearsals to distribute awards is in critical condition, with severe head injuries and burns.

Aquino will attend the scheduled graduation ceremony, Benigno said. Col. Antonio Alviar, spokesman for the military school, said the ceremonies will be held on the school premises.

Aquino was accompanied by Defense Secretary Rafael Ilete, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos, and Presidential Special Counsel Teodoro Locsin Jr.

#### More on Investigation

HK190845 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT 19 Mar 87

[By Roberto Coloma]

[Excerpts] Baguio, March 19 (AFP) -- A bomb which killed four people at an elite military college here was set by experts and was made from Soviet-made rockets, the military official in charge of the investigation said Thursday. Regional military commander Jesus de la Cruz also told reporters that disgruntled soldiers or communist insurgents were believed to be responsible.

Brigadier General de la Cruz, who is heading investigations into Wednesday blast, made the remarks as President Corazon Aquino, who was due to attend a graduation ceremony at the Philippine Military Academy [PMA] here Sunday, visited some of the 43 wounded and paid her respects to those killed in the bombing. Presidential Secretary Teodoro Benigno said that she would go ahead with her planned visit Sunday. [passage omitted]

Mr Benigno told reporters that investigators had told the president in a closed-door briefing at the PMA headquarters that three groups were suspected to be behind the bombing, but he declined to name them. But military sources at the briefing said one officer told Mrs Aquino the suspects were New People's (NPA) guerrillas, supporters of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos and the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), a supposedly disbanded group of PMA-educated junior officers who helped install her in power last year.

Retired General Luis Villareal, the head of the Philippine's intelligence agency, said he was sure that the explosive device was a time bomb and added that it could have been planted the night before the explosion.

Combat troops backed by armored vehicles guarded the PMA as well as approaches to this scenic mountain city on northern Luzon Island Thursday, but Baguio was calm and business went on as usual a day after the blast which claimed the lives of a colonel, two enlisted men and a woman. [passage omitted]

Mrs Aquino, Armed Forces chief General Fidel Ramos and Defense Secretary Rafael Ilete paid their respects to the dead after visiting several of the 43 injured civilians and soldiers and inspecting the heavily-damaged grandstand Thursday. The president "was profoundly shaken and moved" by the bloodshed, Mr Benigno said.

After visiting the injured at local hospitals, she condoled with the families of the four dead and prayed before their caskets placed inside a wooden chapel at a compound for PMA staff. [passage omitted]

Two local carpenters who were among those contracted by PMA authorities to spruce up the grandstand for Sunday's graduation have been taken in for questioning, Brig. Gen. de la Cruz announced Thursday.

The two male workers were taken into custody not as suspects but to help investigators piece together circumstances that may lead to those responsible for the carnage, he said.

But he added that they were being questioned after cadet witnesses pointed to them as the same people they had seen loitering in the vicinity of the grandstand before dawn Wednesday, about eight hours before the bombing.

One was seen below the grandstand and the other was at a nearby telephone booth, the general said. He declined to give their names.

#### Military Factions, NPA Suspect

HK190445 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0330 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] The investigators of the Philippine Military Academy bombing believe that members of two movements in the military could be held responsible for the incident.

However, Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto believes that communist rebels are responsible for the bombing which caused the deaths of 4 persons and wounded 39 others. Ileto linked the bombing to the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military wing the New People's Army. He said these activities are the result of [word indistinct] the coming national election.

#### Ramos Condemns Bombing

HK181217 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0900 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Armed Forces chief General Fidel Ramos condemned the bombing of the Philippine Military Academy [PMA] grandstand in Baguio City at 0945. Here is Jun Francisco for the details.

[Begin recording] Gen Ramos said the incident is a dastardly act and should be condemned. Those responsible for the bombing of the grandstand should be prosecuted and punished. According to reports, 4 people have died and 38 were wounded. The bombing site was at the main grandstand of the PMA.

The public information office at Camp Aguinaldo said the victims are awardees of the 90th-anniversary celebrations of the Armed Forces on Sunday, 22 March. It will be celebrated together with the graduation rites of the Philippines military class of 1987. They were rehearsing for the occasion when the grandstand was bombed.

Victims are: [Word indistinct] Officer First Class Hilarion of the Philippine Navy; Sergeant Lioterio; Mrs. Frias, the wife of an awardee. Wounded are: Colonel Lizandro Abadilla, cadet commandant; Colonel Cruz, chief of staff of the PMA; Lieutenant Colonel Ruben Castro, DL [expansion unknown]; Lieutenant Colonel Alejo, faculty member; Lieutenant Senior Grad Justino; Lieutenant Colonel Nelson Islao, assistant commandant; Captain Felicisimo Co, PC [Philippine Constabulary]; Lieutenant Senior Grade Manpalla of the (GHQ Command); Lieutenant Estrella; Major de Guzman, dental officer; Captain Francisco Villaroman, awardee; Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Purificacion, PIO [Public Information Officer]; Captain Kilanan of the GHQ; Lieutenant Hilarion; and Colonel Resurrecion. [end recording]



FURTHER ON APPROVAL OF AQUINO LAND REFORM PLAN

HK190907 Queson City BUSINESS DAY in English 19 Mar 87 p 20

[Text] The Aquino cabinet yesterday approved a P60-billion land reform program which "can become a reality before the new Congress convenes," Malacanang said.

Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno told newsmen that the program was drafted by an inter-agency task force composed of the Departments of Agrarian Reform, Natural Resources, and Agriculture; the Land Bank of the Philippines; the National Economic and Development Authority; and the Agrarian Reform Institute.

The land reform program will involve the formation of an agrarian reform coordinating council; the setting of land valuation for rice and corn lands of about 1.3 million hectares, the setting of land ceiling, and a progressive land tax; and a compulsory registration of land owners.

Benigno stressed that consultations will be held with all sectors concerned prior to the implementation of the program.

He said the program is estimated to cost over P60 billion and will require P4-billion funding for the first year.

For the period 1987-1989, affected are 1.3 million hectares of tenanted rice and corn lands and 939,000 hectares of idle and abandoned, foreclosed, sequestered, expropriated lands and those voluntarily offered for the program.

Land reform program for 1987-1989 will cost some P35 billion.

The two other programs will be scheduled for the period 1989-1992. The first which involves a total of 3.852 million hectares will apply to haciendas under labor administration, tenanted rice and corn retained areas and tenanted non-rice and corn croplands.

According to Benigno, the comprehensive land reform for the period 1987 to 1992 shall include logged-over areas, unnecessary military and civil reservations and public lands suitable for agriculture.

He said this program involves a total of five million hectares.

Funding will come from the national budget, foreign grants and soft loans, special taxes, shares of stock in government-controlled firms and proceeds from the sale of non-performing assets. He said the government expects to raise some P20 billion from the sale of non-performing assets.

AQUINO PLAYS DOWN 'RIFT' BETWEEN ARROYO, ONGPIN

HK171201 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 Mar 87 pp 1, 11

[By Ding Marcelo]

[Excerpt] President Aquino played down yesterday the rift between two of her top cabinet members, saying there is really "no squabble" and the whole thing is being blown out of proportion, particularly the so-called "Council of Trent."

Speaking briefly to newsmen, Mrs. Aquino appeared unperturbed by the controversy involving Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo and Finance Secretary Jaime Ongpin.

The quarrel between the two close advisers exploded into the open when Ongpin, regarded as the leader of the "Council of Trent," blamed Arroyo for the delay in the issuance of executive orders and proclamations necessary in the implementation of the government's economic recovery program.

Arroyo hit back at Ongpin Sunday, saying Ongpin is to blame for the economic mismanagement and the short-fall in revenue targets.

Arroyo charged that Ongpin was following the discredited schemes of then President Ferdinand Marcos and then Prime Minister Cesar Virata and refused to stand up to the impositions of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

"Wala namang squabble yan" [There is actually no squabble], the President said. "I'm sure we will solve everything."

She also minimized the influence of the "Council of Trent" in her government, saying that it "is being blown out of proportion."

The council, named after a 15th century anti-reform group, is supposed to be composed of Mrs. Aquino's top economic advisers who plot the country's economic strategy both internally and externally, including the manner in which the country's foreign debts are to be paid.

Led by Ongpin, the council has among its members Fr. Joaquin Bernas, Solita Monsod of the NEDA [National Economic Development Administration], and Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion.

They reportedly have tried to put in as many of their people in key cabinet and other high government positions [as published] and were reported to be the ones behind the move to replace Arroyo with one of their men, Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon.

The president did not say what plans she has to solve the rift which has created divisions within her official family.

With Arroyo are several human rights lawyers now serving in various sensitive positions in the government, while Ongpin leads the economic advisers on whom the president depends for many of her development programs.

A cabinet source said both sides are divided along distinctly ideological lines "and there seems to be no area in which they can possibly find common agreement."

Arroyo, the source said, has very little in common with Ongpin's group composed of business managers and corporate executives in big companies. [passage omitted]

#### AQUINO TO INDUCT NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

HK131337 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 87 pp 1, 6

[Excerpts] President Aquino will induct two new government officials today and another two on Monday, Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno announced yesterday.

Former Budget Undersecretary Guillermo Carage will take his oath as new budget secretary today, replacing Alberto Romulo, who is running for the Senate.

Ceferina Gotladera, a career official, will also be sworn in today as the new chairman of the Civil Service Commission, replacing Francisco Belmonte. [passage omitted]

Still vacant are the positions left by former Audit Chairman Teofisto Guingona, former Agrarian Reform Secretary Heherson Alvarez and former Deputy Executive Secretary Fulgencio Factoran Jr.

Guingona and Alvarez, are now running for the Senate, while Factoran was recently named the natural resources secretary.

Informed sources, however, said Education Under Secretary Jose de Jesus has been asked by President Aquino to replace Factoran.

#### Further Appointments

HK181225 Manila THE PHILIPPINE STAR in English 17 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] President Aquino swore in yesterday Reinerio Reyes as secretary of transportation and communications.

Five other officials also took their oath before the President at the Malacanang Guest House.

Reyes succeeds Hernando Perez, who resigned to run for Congress in Batangas.

Also inducted into office were Jesus Beringuela, undersecretary of budget and management; Manuel Estrella, president, Philippine National Oil Corporation (PNOC); Luis V.Z. Sison, administrator of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System [MWSS]; and Victor Deoferio deputy commissioner of internal revenue.

Reyes said he will institute professionalism in the department and will adopt the corporation system in managing it.

Reyes was with the International Business Machines (IBM) for 25 years.

He has a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the Mapua Institute of Technology.

He is also the associate executive trustee of the Asset Privatization Trust created by the president to manage the various non-performing assets of the government.

Domingo, the new COA [Commission on Audit] chairman, has been an audit COA commissioner since April 1986. He was a law professor and later a registrar of the University of Manila College of Law. He obtained his master of laws degree from the University of Manila in 1955 and his doctorate in civil law from the Universidad Central de Madrid in 1958. He passed the Philippine bar in 1961.

Domingo who took over from Teofisto Guingona, now a senatorial bet, vowed to "carry on the policies laid down by Chairman Guingona because they are still valid and relevant."



"There are still a lot of work to be done and we will just carry on the best way we can," he said.

Beringuela, 59, was assistant minister of the budget and member of the management coordinating board (MDC) prior to his appointment as undersecretary of budget and management.

Estrella, 49, was a principal of the Sycip, Gorres and Velayo and was senior partner in charge of operations training and project development.

Sison, 60, succeeded Jose Yap as MWSS administrator. He was chairman and chief executive officer of the Private Development Corporation of the Philippines.

#### AQUINO ON CHDF; PALACE ON ALLEGED CIA OPERATION

HK181139 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 18 Mar 87 pp 1, 6

[Excerpt] President Aquino yesterday clarified media reports that she had ordered the immediate dismantling of the Civilian Home Defense Forces [CHDF], saying she had merely asked the defense and local government secretaries to draft an executive order on the matter.

She said she had asked Defense Secretary Rafael M. Iloilo and Local Government Secretary Jaime Ferrer to draft the order, for her consideration by April 30, to pave the way for the implementation of a constitutional provision calling for the disbandment of private armies and other armed groups, including the CHDF.

Section 24 of Article XVIII (Transitory Provisions) of the Constitution states: "Private armies and other armed groups not recognized by duly constituted authority shall be dismantled. All paramilitary forces, including Civilian Home Defense Forces, not consistent with the citizen armed forces established in this Constitution, shall be dissolved or, where appropriate, converted into the regular force."

The presidential press office announced Monday that Ms. Aquino had directed Iloilo and Ferrer to "take immediate steps" to disband the 45,000-member CHDF and all other "armed groups."

But palace sources, the ASSOCIATED PRESS reported yesterday, said presidential military adviser, retired Brig. Gen. Jose Magno, sent the memorandum-directive back to the office of Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo Tuesday for revisions before forwarding it to Iloilo and Ferrer.

The revised memorandum directs the Defense and Local Government Departments to submit by April 30 a draft of an executive order carrying out the constitutional provision banning paramilitary forces, including the CHDF, the AP added.

Government television quoted Magno as saying the order "involves preparations to slowly dismantle the CHDF in two or three years."

In another development, Malacanang announced yesterday that Ms. Aquino is unaware of a reported planned operation by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) against Philippine rebels.

The U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK reported that President Ronald Reagan recently signed an authorization for a secret multimillion-dollar CIA operation against the communist New People's Army, and President Aquino had approved the plan.

"The president is not aware of nor has she seen any American CIA plan for the Philippines and, therefore, cannot comment on the article's content," according to the palace statement.

Brig. Gen. Luis San Andres, Armed Forces deputy chief of staff for civil-military operations, told the INQUIRER that foreigners or foreign groups like the CIA have no place in the counterinsurgency drive here.

"We don't need the CIA to wage a counterinsurgency campaign in the Philippines," San Andres said. "We (the Filipinos) can do it better." [passage omitted]

#### ARMY PURSUES NPAS RESPONSIBLE FOR QUEZON AMBUSH

HK190221 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] In Quezon Province, a massive operation has been launched by the military against the 300 NPA rebels responsible for the ambush of an Army column in barangay Ibabang Bakung in General Luna town. Combat troops from the 42nd and 49th Infantry Battalions and the 32nd Brigade of the Army and the provincial Constabulary command are in hot pursuit of the enemy in the jungles of the Bondoc peninsula where the rebels withdrew after the ambush.

South Luzon command chief Brigadier Restituto Padilla and Brigadier General Alejandro (Galido) are personally supervising the operation. They vowed to get the NPA rebels at all cost. The operation is being supported by helicopter gunships, and PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] Region 6 commander Brigadier Gen Orlando Antoni said all possible escape routes from the peninsula have been blocked and boats crossing to Marinduque and Tayabas in Mindoro are being checked by the military.

#### LAUREL SAYS U.S. 'CONCERNED' OVER SOVIET MOVES

HK181307 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 18 Mar 87 pp 1, 8

[By Olaf S. Giron]

[Text] The flurry of Soviet activities in the Philippines following Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's Vladivostok speech last July has spurred Manila visits by top American security officials, Vice President Salvador H. Laurel said yesterday.

Laurel said the United States government has voiced concern over the Soviet initiatives in Southeast Asia and dispatched trouble-shooters to the region.

"They (Soviets) are taking the initiative in establishing closer relations and cooperation with the developing countries in this part of the world. So naturally, the United States should be concerned," he told newsmen.

Among the ranking Washington officials sent here were Gaston Sigur, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, and Richard Childress, director of the U.S. National Security Council [title as published], who is currently in town for talks with administration officers.

Asked about the expansion of the Soviet Embassy staff here and the reported shipments of firearms for rebels, Laurel said, "We have not been sleeping on this. We have been very active."

Since this is a matter of deep concern to the Aquino government, he said, he has made representations with appropriate agencies of government to look into these matters.

Regarding the Soviet Embassy building in Formes Park, Makati, Laurel pointed out that the sale of the prime property was authorized during the previous administration through the intercession of the former first lady.

Ambassador to Moscow Alejandro Melchor has been instructed to find out if there is reciprocity between the two countries, whether the Philippine Government can acquire property in the Soviet capital for its embassy there.

Pablo Araque, assistant secretary for European Affairs, confirmed the existence of a written RP [Republic of the Philippines]-USSR agreement on the purchase of the 4,223-square meter lot.

Signatories to the agreement, he said, were acting Foreign Affairs Minister Manuel Collantes and Ambassador Yuriy Sholmov. The real estate was bought in 1984 for P16.2 million.

The construction of the Soviet Embassy building and "annex houses" would have escaped notice but for the fact that the three-storey structure overlooks Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

Retired Brig. Gen. Luis Villareal, director general of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), said some municipal ordinances have been violated in the constructions.

However, the Makati engineer's office has not been able to conduct an inspection because of the principle of extra-territoriality and will have to course its request to inspect the buildings through the foreign affairs department, Araque said.

The assistant minister is one of three diplomatic officers composing a probe body investigating the constructions which have also been protested by the Forbes Park Homeowners Association.

#### USSR ENVOY DENIES REBELS ASKED FOR SOVIET AID

HK171512 Hong Kong AFP in English 1507 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Baguio, Philippines, March 17 (AFP) -- The Soviet Ambassador to the Philippines denied here Tuesday that Moscow had ever been approached for aid by local communist insurgents or that the Kremlin would ever interfere in Philippine internal affairs.

"We will not and we will never interfere with the internal affairs of the Philippines because in the first place, the Philippines and the USSR are not military allies," Vadim Ivanovich Shabalin said in this northern city. He was reacting to reports here that the Soviet Union had offered aid and training to local communist insurgents.

He also urged the dismantling of all foreign military bases and nuclear bases in the Asia-Pacific region in order to lessen military tensions in the area. The Philippines hosts two large U.S. military bases.

Moscow "is for peace in the world and one way to achieve this is for all the foreign powers to dismantle their nuclear weapons in the Asia-Pacific region."



NPA ANNIVERSARY 'SHOW OF FORCE' EXPECTED

HK171243 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 17 Mar 87 pp 1, 10

[Excerpt] Military authorities said yesterday "armed depredations" by communist rebels are expected to further increase not only as part of their goal to seize political power, but also as a "show of force" in connection with the celebration of the 18th anniversary of the New People's Army on March 29.

They assured the people, however, that the Armed Forces is on alert and ready to cope with the threats posed by the communist rebels.

The NPA was founded as the military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] on March 29, 1969, in Tarlac by a small band of rebels led by Bernabe Buscayno, alias "Kumander Dante." Buscayno is now a senatorial candidate under the banner of the Partido ng Bayan.

The CPP, on the other hand, was founded on Dec. 26, 1968 in Pangasinan by a group of university professors and students led by Jose Ma. Sison.

Sison and Buscayno were captured and jailed during the Marcos regime and were among the political prisoners ordered released by President Aquino when she assumed power in February last year. [passage omitted]

MISUARI REFUSES TO HEAD TRANSITION GOVERNMENT

HK181231 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 18 Mar 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chief Nur Misuari has just returned from Libya in time to lead today's observance of the 18th founding anniversary of the Bangsa Moro Army in Maimbung, Jolo.

His return coincided with an offer to name head of a transition government to be established through an executive order by President Aquino.

But Misuari indicated his rejection in an interview with Iran's official news agency before he left Libya for the Philippines.

He was quoted as saying he wanted full autonomy or nothing.

However, MNLF's demand for full autonomy through an executive order was rejected by the government in their third round of talks in Zamboanga City.

An executive order, a government negotiator said, might be unconstitutional and might lead to the filing of impeachment proceedings against the president.

Under the 1986 Constitution, only Congress can legislate to grant autonomy to the South and the Cordilleras.

Because of its legal implications, the government instead offered to establish a transition government with Misuari as head until Congress passes the necessary legislation.

"We're proposing some kind of arrangement whereby the MNLF can start wielding power on local governments in the South," an official said.

But he said this arrangement would only apply to areas in Mindanao where the Muslims predominate.

He added that since the Constitution was silent on a transition government, Mrs Aquino could "safely" issue an executive order to this effect, according to the official.

Meanwhile, Misuari is expected to stay in Jolo for a week before leaving again for a still unknown destination.

LATE REPORT: NPA DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN PMA BLAST

HK191238 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 19 (AFP) -- Philippine communist guerrillas Thursday denied any involvement in a bomb attack at an elite military school in the northern Philippines that killed four people and injured 43.

Military investigators into Wednesday's blast at the Philippine Military Academy [PMA] in Baguio City said on Thursday that leftist rebels, disgruntled soldiers or backers of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos could have been behind the blast.

"The defense and military establishment not only wants to discredit and malign the NPA and the revolutionary movement at every turn. It is engaged in a disinformation campaign," the New People's Army (NPA) said in a statement.

The NPA disclaimer, relayed by a rebel sources to the Manila bureau of AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone, accused the military of trying to "psych up the people into fearing the NPA and the national democratic movement and allowing fascist rule to be restored."

In a separate telephone call to the offices of the newspaper MANILA STANDARD, a spokesman for the communist-led rebel coalition National Democratic Front (NDF) accused military supporters of Mr Marcos or former defense chief Juan Ponce Enrile of being behind the bombing.

The caller said it was "utterly illogical" for the NPA to launch the attack since it would give them neither arms nor propaganda exposure, a STANDARD editor told AFP.

The NPA said the military accusation could be "actually a cover-up for the real culprits who apparently have easy access to the military camp."

The blast badly damaged a grandstand where President Corazon Aquino was due to attend a graduation ceremony Sunday.

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